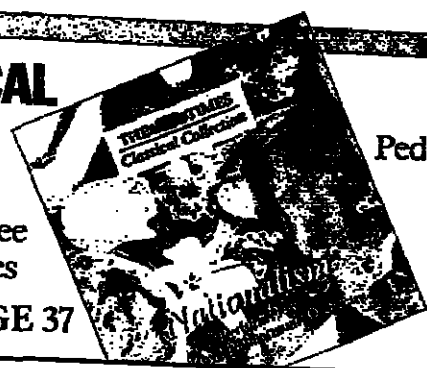


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Feet first

Pedestrian zones could revive the heart of London, P35
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THE AMIS LETTERS



...and other literary rows
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Demonisation of Cherie Blair

Nigella Lawson on the motives behind the smears
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Ruling on 48-hour week is nonsense, says Major



Rifkind: adopted his boldest manner

Left and Right gang up on Centre

THE word "convergence" re-emerged again and again during Commons discussion yesterday of Malcolm Rifkind's White Paper approach to European negotiations. After the Foreign Secretary sat down, backbenchers on both sides rose to blame — or praise — the idea that European economies should converge. Dame Campbell-Savours (Lab, Workington), was in favour of convergence. Others, Euro-sceptics on both sides, were against it. But the convergence they were discussing (the economic kind) was less interesting than

Matthew Parris

two convergences none seemed to notice. The left wing of the Labour Party are converging with the right wing of the Tory Party. They both hate the EU. They are gangling up on the front benches of both their parties to say so. Meanwhile, the Tory Front Bench is converging with the Labour Front Bench. In a nutshell, they're both scared of anti-EU anger in their parties, and anxious to keep it at bay. Thus, Mr Rifkind, adopting his boldest manner, stormed his way through a two-point shopping list of groceries he was determined to bring

Continued on Page 2, col 4

Britain urges cut in power of Euro court

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

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BRITAIN is ready to seek changes to the Treaty of Rome to stop the European Court of Justice abusing its powers, Malcolm Rifkind said yesterday as another controversial ruling overshadowed the launch of the Government's White Paper on Europe.

The Foreign Secretary spelt out his plans to prevent the court "making rather than interpreting the law" after it rebuffed British attempts to quash a European law imposing a maximum 48-hour working week — a decision derided by the Prime Minister as ludicrous and complete nonsense.

Mr Rifkind promised action to prevent health and safety directives being used to introduce social policy legislation "by the back door" — as it believes is happening with the 48-hour week. But yesterday, the Advocate General advised the court to throw out British claims that the rule is illegal, and his recommendation is certain to be accepted by the court in the summer.

The interim finding and the court's ruling last week giving Spanish fishermen the right to seek millions of pounds in compensation for being barred from British waters have infuriated Conservative Euro-sceptics, and Mr Rifkind made plain that he intended to make restraining the court a high priority at the forthcoming inter-governmental conference that will review the Maastricht Treaty.

He highlighted proposals in the White Paper to limit backdated applications of its judgments and member states' liability for damages. And he then indicated that the Government was prepared to go much further to prevent the court using its powers in a

way that the Community's ministers had not intended.

He sees the judgment on fishing quotas, introduced to protect member states, as a prime example. These have now been interpreted as a licence to allow other fishermen to fish in British waters.

Mr Rifkind also wants to stop in their tracks ideas being floated within the European Parliament for fiscal measures — which can only be dealt with by unanimous agreement — to be tacked on to single market or environmental proposals, which are covered by majority voting.

The Advocate General's advice would require ministers to introduce a maximum 48-hour week unless employers specifically negotiated longer hours with their workers. That flies in the face of the British opt-out from the social chapter and was immediately denounced by John Major, who told the Commons: "This sort of European legislation is ludicrous and we will continue to tell our partners in Europe that is the case."

"It is precisely because of legislation like this and stupidities like this that the EU is becoming uncompetitive and losing jobs to other parts of the world. It is a complete nonsense and it is time that people began to stand up and say so."

Mr Rifkind's declaration that he was prepared to seek treaty changes pleased some

Euro-sceptics who regard a "repatriation" of powers from Brussels as an essential demand. While treaty reforms could happen only by unanimous agreement, ministers believe his stance gives Britain an important bargaining counter in the talks, which start in Turin on March 29.

Sir Michael Spicer, who led the Maastricht rebellion but now chairs the European Research Group, said the White Paper had given hope to those who believed that taking back powers from the court was the way to block a federal Europe. But headline sceptics made no attempt to hide their view that it would not stop the drive towards a federal Europe.

The 38-page document treads a careful path between the two wings of the party, rejecting any move towards the gradual development of a United States of Europe and declaring that the bedrock of the European Union was the nation state.

But it also underlined in ringing terms the benefits of EU membership. Mr Major in a foreword said: "The UK has to be at the heart of the debate to make clear its views about the future of the EU because it is our future and the future of our continent."

The document added: "We are committed to the success of the EU and to playing a positive role in achieving that success."

To avoid the risk of conflict, it barely mentioned monetary union or a referendum. Mr Rifkind's paper to the Cabinet on the implications of a referendum, including the issue of whether the Cabinet would be bound by a decision on a single currency, is expected within weeks.

Continued on page 2, col 2



Graham Bradley after winning the Smurfit Champion Hurdle on Collier Bay at Cheltenham yesterday

Win for rider who clocked on late

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM BRADLEY won the Smurfit Champion Hurdle on Collier Bay at Cheltenham yesterday and was immediately dubbed the Alarm Clock Champion.

The jockey had been due to ride Alderbrook, which finished second, but lost the ride last month when he overslept and missed a schooling session because his alarm clock failed during a power cut. The rider obtained the chance ride on Collier Bay, a 9-1 shot, only 24 hours before yesterday's £175,000 feature race when the horse was turned down by another jockey. Bradley, 35,

looked pointedly at his watch as he made his way to the winner's enclosure and said: "It was very embarrassing. I made Southern Electric send me a telegram saying when the power cut was that made me miss a schooling session on Alderbrook. I was very unlucky and lost the ride on Alderbrook, but I must thank Southern Electric now."

"I should have been there to school Alderbrook for 10am, but I went to (fellow jockey) Dean Gallagher's birthday party the previous night and got back about 1.30am. I was pretty drunk to be honest, but I thought I would be there easily for 10am. My girlfriend went to work at 7.30am

and set my electric alarm clock, but there was a power cut and I did not wake up until 10.20am."

"I rang Mr Bailey, the trainer of Alderbrook, and said I would be there in ten minutes, but he told me not to bother: the schooling session had already happened. It was a nightmare. I thought I had missed a Champion Hurdle victory because of it."

On the opening day of the three-day festival, Martin Pipe, the former champion

trainer, had two horses put down after injuring themselves. Jamie Evans, who rode another of Pipe's runners, was taken to hospital with a broken leg after a bad fall.

The tented village at the racecourse was badly damaged by high winds a few hours before the festival got under way. Workmen had to carry out emergency repairs on marquees housing shops and trade stands.

Racing, pages 44, 45

China opens fire

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINESE ships and aircraft criss-crossed in an offshore exercise firing live ammunition less than 100 miles from Taiwan yesterday as Peking signalled it will not tolerate the island's rising international profile.

On Quemoy and Matsu, the two Taiwanese islands close to the mainland, soldiers bolstered defences against a possible lightning strike. With two American naval task forces either in the area or on the way, tensions were reaching levels not seen since the late 1950s.

"We support the sensible precautions being taken by the

United States" in "this dangerous situation," said a Foreign Office spokesman. The European Union said it "deeply regretted" China's actions.

William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said the US doubted China would attack Taiwan, and US Congress resolutions called on the country to be ready to provide defensive weapons to Taipei.

But a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman described the situation as "an internal matter for the Chinese people."

Fears of war, page 12
America warned, page 13

Graffiti vandal given five years

A graffiti vandal who carried out an 18-month campaign spraying murals on buildings and vehicles has been jailed for five years.

The 23-year-old's graffiti, which he always marked with his trademark symbol, a clenched fist, became a familiar sight throughout South Yorkshire. Sheffield Crown Court was told. Page 6

Dole health fears

As Robert Dole drives inexorably towards the Republican nomination, some party members feel that he may not be strong enough physically to survive the battle for the White House. Page 15

Adams is embarrassing dinner guest for US hosts

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND NICHOLAS WATT

GERRY ADAMS, ostracised by the British, Irish and American Governments since the IRA ceasefire collapsed, will attend a dinner in Washington tomorrow whose guest list includes the First Lady, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, a British minister, the Shadow Ulster Secretary and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader.

Sources said organisers of the American Ireland Fund event were embarrassed by the Sinn Féin leader's presence but could do little about it. Mr Adams has been invited by an Irish-American family from Boston — the Dunleys — that has bought five tables' worth of tickets.

Hillary Clinton, who is accepting a peace award on the President's behalf, represents an Administration that has barred formal contacts with Mr Adams. Baroness Dexton of Wakefield, the Northern Ireland Minister, and Mo Mowlam, the Labour spokeswoman, have been warned in

advance of Mr Adams's presence.

An American official said yesterday that the ceasefire's collapse was "a kick in the face for the Administration and that's how Gerry Adams will be received. There's no one here who understands this resumption of violence."

In Belfast, the IRA admitted planting the bomb which exploded in Fulham, west London, at the weekend.

Letters, page 19

Dinosaurs were the first trombonists

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SCIENTISTS say they can re-create accurately the cry of a dinosaur, 75 million years after its final lament echoed across the American wilderness.

The acoustic breakthrough follows the discovery in New Mexico of a fossil of the parasauropodus, a duckbilled dinosaur with a distinctive, rear-peaked head. Advances in the science of stereolithography — the use of laser to make three-dimensional objects in plastic — mean that the dinosaur's head can be rebuilt.

The parasauropodus's skull contained trombone-shaped air passages that probably gave the creature a deep moo,

similar to the lower notes on a brass instrument. The sound will shortly be heard at the Sandia National Laboratory, New Mexico, where data from the dinosaur fossil has been run through a computer and where air will be sent through a PVC replica of the head in the manner of a trombonist playing a note.

The Sandia National Laboratory, administered by the Department of Energy, is the hub of American nuclear weapon research. It was chosen for the project by Robert Sullivan, a curator at the Museum of Pennsylvania, who found the fossil in New Mexico last summer.

Michael Brett-Surman, a dinosaur consultant from the Smithsonian Institution

in Washington DC, said yesterday: "To hear the sound of a dinosaur from 75 million years ago would be exciting in a scientific sense, although dinosaur hearing was poor and operated at the lower end of the register."

He emphasised that the Sandia researchers would need to line the skull's air passages with a material similar to cellular mucus and dinosaur cartilage, otherwise it might not resonate to a genuine degree. If the experiences of the brass band hold firm, the length of the air passage will dictate the tone of the note. Thus, the older dinosaur, with its longer tubes, will have had a deeper "voice" than its young.



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Fierce winds whip up snowy danger

By Robin Young
and Paul Wilkinson

HIGH winds and driving snow caused widespread disruption yesterday to traffic and power services. At least 14,000 homes in Scotland were without power and television and radio transmitters were damaged by winds up to 80mph. Emergency shelters were set up to provide hot food and warmth for anyone whose power was not reconnected.

Overnight snow also hit northern and western England and the Midlands, bringing treacherous driving conditions. Cross-Pennine routes were closed from the A57 Snake Pass between Sheffield and Manchester to the A69 between Carlisle and Newcastle.

In West Yorkshire, where up to four inches of snow fell, one driver took three hours to travel the 18 miles from Ilkley to Leeds, which usually takes 30 minutes. Commuters claimed not enough had been done to keep roads clear, but councils said gritters and snow ploughs had been working long before the rush-hour.

Routine outpatients in Bradford had their appointments cancelled as ambulances concentrated on emergency calls. Janet Walter, of West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, said: "We have our 4x4 ambulances on the road now to get to those with life-threatening conditions."

In Cumbria, firemen rescued two men trapped on the roof of their car in a river swollen by torrential rain. They stalled while crossing a ford near Cleator Moor.

Snow falls were expected to stop during the evening, but forecasters warned of drifts caused by continuing strong winds. The Government offered financial aid to communities in Scotland hit by floods. George Kynoch, Local Government Minister, said that authorities in Grampian would be able to claim towards emergency costs incurred after record rainfall caused flooding last September and Renfrew District Council will receive nearly £170,000 towards the cost of clearing up after the Paisley floods in December 1994.

Forecast, page 24

Government angered partner states by going to court

Defeat on working hours a severe blow to ministers

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

THE Government's defeat in the European Court of Justice yesterday had been seen as a vital round in its fight to annul the EU law setting the maximum compulsory working week at 48 hours and imposing rest periods and holidays.

In another rebuff to Britain from the Luxembourg court, the body's legal adviser decided there were no grounds for accepting any of the Government's arguments; the one being that the law had nothing to do with the issue of health and safety. The full court, which will pronounce on the case in the summer, rarely issues rulings that differ from the opinion of its advisers, the advocates-general.

The Brussels Commission welcomed the opinion by Philippe Léger, one of nine advocates-general. "We are pleased that his reasoning does not give satisfaction to the UK on any of the grounds on which it complained," a spokeswoman for Padraig Flynn, the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, said.

British lawyers argued before the court in January that the directive, passed by EU member states in November 1993, had been disguised as a



Hunt: was seen to have reneged on deal

"social" measure, and wrongly been subject to majority voting in the government council rather than the unanimity required for measures affecting the "rights and interests of employed persons". Deprived of a veto, Britain abstained in the vote and immediately took its fellow EU Governments to court.

M. Léger, 57, a law professor and former chief of staff for the French justice ministry, rejected the Government's main argument that there was no evidence that long working hours harmed health or reduced safety. There was clearly a health and safety concern, he said. Offering fuel to critics

who charge the court with applying a political agenda, the advocate-general added that health and safety should have a broad interpretation and that a more restrictive approach would "run counter to the trend in our society".

The directive, due to take effect this year, imposes a 48-hour per week limit, including overtime. It also requires breaks every six hours and a minimum daily rest of at least 11 straight hours, and four weeks of paid holiday. The directive exempted certain categories such as medical personnel and police.

Britain, whose workers put in longer hours than those of all other EU states, persuaded its partners at the time to accept a seven-year grace period before it would have to apply the law. Britain also won a provision to allow employees to volunteer for longer hours provided that certain conditions were met.

Britain's partners were angered when David Hunt, the Employment Secretary at the time, took them to court because they had negotiated a compromise on the understanding that Britain would accept the watered-down directive. "There was a lot of bad feeling that London went straight to the court so there is not much sympathy that it is losing," a Continental diplomat said yesterday.

The court's likely decision, coming after last week's order that Britain pay compensation to Spanish fishermen, is certain to fuel arguments in Britain for a curb in the Court's powers and the creation of some avenue of appeal against its decisions.

According to the Trades Union Congress, a third of Britain's professionals and managers work more than 48 hours; 30 per cent of plant operatives and 25 per cent of craft workers also exceed the 48-hour mark.

White Paper, pages 8 and 9
Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Fisheries chief gives warning on fleet cut

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was told yesterday that it faces legal action by the European Commission if it does not cut the size of its fishing fleet by the end of this year. Emma Bonino, the Fisheries Commissioner, said it had fallen behind targets by 15 to 20 per cent.

She also defended the practice of "quota hopping" by Spanish and other foreign vessels. The White Paper calls

for rule changes to stop foreign boats registering in Britain and taking a share of the British fleet's fish quota. It says quota hopping "prevents fishing communities from enjoying a secure benefit from national quotas".

Signora Bonino said the foreign boats "must be allowed to go about their business without let or hindrance".

Britain moves to curtail Euro court powers

Continued from page 1

Yesterday, the leading sceptics concentrated their fire on the European court, which Norman Lamont described as an integral part of progress towards a European superstate.

John Redwood, the defeated leadership contender, said: "The Court is off the leash and on the loose, overturning Acts of Parliament, destroying our fishing industry and changing our employment laws. It is threatening our

veto of the social chapter. Parliament should immediately assert its rights."

Jonathan Aitken, a member of the Cabinet until last summer, gave a warning that unless the Government could win the vital battles ahead, MPs would have to start "seriously considering the option of withdrawal" from the EU.

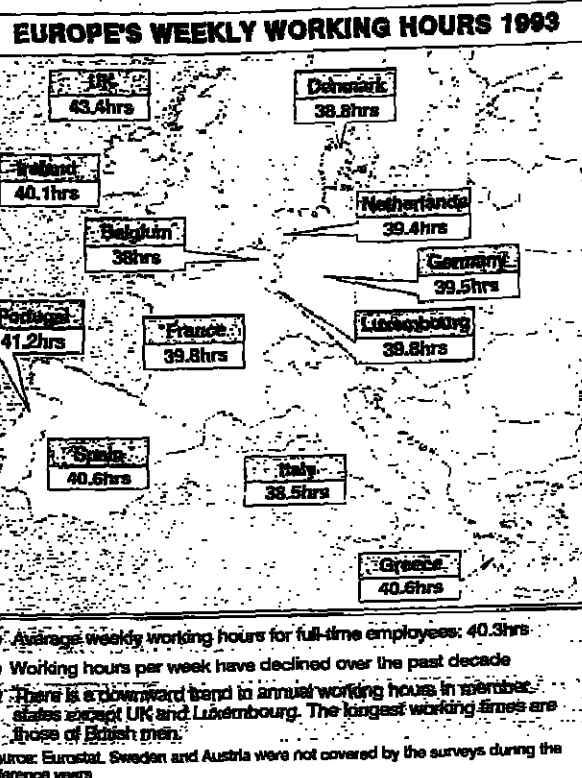
Mr Rifkind told the Commons that Britain was "unambiguously committed" to its membership of the EU. But

he added: "The Government believes the EU will only succeed if it respects the integrity of the independent democratic nation states which comprise its membership, and if it is flexible enough to accommodate their political and cultural differences. The Government is totally opposed to a monolithic, centralised, federal Europe."

Bernard Connolly, the senior European Commission official dismissed after attacking plans for a single

currency, conceded last night that monetary union is likely to begin in 1999.

Mr Connolly, whose book on the workings of the European Commission, *The European Commission: A History*, was published last week, told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that a single currency "is more likely to happen in 1999 than later" and that Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Austria were likely to join France and Germany.



Britain can shelve 48-hour week for seven years

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN can avoid implementing a 48-hour maximum working week until 2003 even if the European Court of Justice, in a judgment expected in the summer, confirms yesterday's legal opinion by its Advocate-General. Although all European Union states would, in theory, be required to implement the ruling from November, Britain could take advantage of a seven-year opt-out.

As well as a maximum 48-hour week, the Advocate-General says that all workers will be entitled to a rest of 11 consecutive hours in every 24 hours, a break whenever the working day exceeds six hours and three weeks' paid leave — and from 1999 four weeks' — in every year. Employers who failed to comply could leave themselves open to legal action.

Business leaders said that if Britain had to put a 48-hour maximum week into practice it would hit competitiveness. John Cridland of the Confederation of British Industry said: "If we have to imple-

ment this confusing directive, it will involve employers in bureaucratic and time-consuming negotiations and recording of employees' working hours, disrupting shift and night working."

But John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said he hoped that the European Court would dismiss Britain's challenge to the ruling. "This is another nail in the coffin for Britain's [Maastricht treaty] opt-out," he said.

Few employees would be affected by a maximum working week of 48 hours, even though Britain has the longest usual working week in the European Union and is the only European country where the working week has increased over the past decade. The British working week averages 43.4 hours, followed by Portugal at 41.3, Belgium has the shortest at 38.2 hours and the EU average is 40.3 hours.

About one in five of Britain's 26 million employees work on average more than 48 hours a week.

Loyalists pledge to match the IRA blow for blow

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LOYALIST terrorists warned the IRA last night that they would match its violence "blow for blow" if republicans refused to restore their ceasefire.

As the IRA said that it planted last Friday's bomb in Fulham, west London, the Combined Loyalist Military Command said it would not allow continued attacks on the mainland to go unanswered.

In its first important statement since the IRA ceasefire ended, the loyalist terrorist leadership said it had "withstood the recent provocation of IRA bombs on the mainland which have killed our innocent British fellow citizens". But it added: "We are poised and ready to strike to effect. We will give blow for blow. As in the past, whatever the cost, we will gladly pay it."

The loyalists said they had taken "careful note" of last week's threat from the IRA to maintain its campaign for another 25 years if Britain refused to convene unconditional all-party talks. The command, which is the umbrella group for the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Ulster Defence Association and the Red Hand Commando, said: "Threats of war, or war itself, will not lessen our resolve for Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom so long as the greater number of our citizens require it. The IRA must come to terms with the indisputable fact that we, the Unionist people, are the British presence in Northern Ireland."

The loyalists coupled their threats by saying that they genuinely wanted peace. They called on the IRA to "draw back from the brink" by restoring its ceasefire, adding: "The IRA and Sinn Féin must choose and choose well."

The command insisted that democracy was the only way forward. It added: "We are convinced that sufficient political agreement can be reached to allow all of our citizens to have an equal and meaningful stake in the new society that is coming."

The statement is a clear warning to the IRA that it will renew its campaign to retaliate even if republicans restrict their violence to the mainland.

Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the UDA, said: "This statement is saying that the road the IRA is travelling is a very dangerous road. It will inevitably lead to confrontation between the two communities." Loyalists would give as good as they got.

BA accepts £400,000 costs from Virgin

British Airways has agreed to accept more than £400,000 in costs from Virgin Atlantic after the "dirty tricks" affair. The payment follows a High Court action begun in 1993. Virgin was seeking £29 million in damages from BA for allegedly misusing information available on a shared computer network but settled for £265,000 in April last year. Each agreed to pay a proportion of the other's costs, under the terms of that settlement.

Police jobs

Scotland Yard may privatise up to 5,500 civilian jobs under an efficiency review. It is examining the finance department, which runs the £1.7 billion budget, the legal department, personnel, technology, property maintenance and public affairs.

Radiation rise

Levels of solar radiation hitting Britain have risen sharply with amounts over some cities 50 per cent higher than normal, according to findings by the government's National Radiological Protection Board, which blames depleted ozone levels.

Drugs in prison

Thirty-seven per cent of prisoners were found to be using illegal drugs in a survey of substance misuse in jails. The vast majority were found to have taken cannabis. About 4 per cent were heroin users and 2 per cent were on tranquillisers.

Tennis case

Tennis players Mats Wilander and Karel Novacek yesterday began a High Court fight against allegations of cocaine abuse. They want to delay an International Tennis Federation hearing until after their High Court action against the body in June.

Marines action

A woman who applied to be a chef with the Royal Marines but was told it was a men-only service is claiming sex discrimination. Angela Surdar, a former Army chef, is believed to be the first woman to challenge the ban on women serving in the Marines.

Aubergine hailed

Muslims claimed a miracle after Salim and Rukhsana Patel, from Bolton, found the same of God in an aubergine. The couple found the Arabic word for Allah formed by seeds. Abdullah Patel, their priest, said: "This clearly shows our God exists."



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	£100,000+	4.65	4.75
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Allies against EU

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Continued from page 1
home from Brussels. In fact his statement picked a careful path across tricky terrain, but it sounded confident and, promising delivery at a future date, bought time. Backbench Eurosceptics muttered, but did not explode. Some offered a guarded welcome. Mr Rifkind eyed them warily.

Next up was his Opposition Shadow, Labour's Robin Cook. In a thin response, Mr Cook sounded uncharacteristically tentative. Why? Mr Rifkind did point out that until recently Mr Cook had been pretty hostile to the EU; but it is unlike Mr Cook to allow the fact that he believes a proposition to be nonsense to detract from the panache with which he advances it. His edginess may better be explained by nervousness about his own backbench Eurosceptics.

Pro-Europeans on both sides of the House shuffled closer to each other in their remarks, like Early Christians in the presence of a preponderance of barbarians. John Home Robertson (Lab, E Lothian), wanted the Government to be "more positive" about Europe. Ray Whitney (C, Wycombe), wanted us to know that rumours about Helmut Kohl's Euro-federalism are quite untrue: this cuddly German has been misunderstood.

But along the back of the backbenches on every side, the barbarians prowled. It was one of those occasions when the Chamber resembles not so much a battlefield divided between opposing armies, as a stockade in whose middle huddle the forces of

European culture — Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat — humming Beethoven's Ninth to keep their spirits up, while from the encircling darkness bongo drums curdle the blood.

Dimly visible from the blackness, Eurosceptics were virtually holding hands in a ring right around the Floor of the House, with both Front Benches held hostage in the middle. The loudest cheer from the Tory barbarians went not to one of their own, but to the veteran Eurosceptic, Peter Shore (Lab, Bethnal Green & Stepney), calling to them across the floor.

Nor was this the only convergence. John Redwood (C, Wokingham), was cheered for his attack on EU pretensions; Labour's Tony Benn was cheered for his opinion that currency union without a referendum would amount "to a coup d'état". Have you noticed that both Benn and Redwood — intelligent Left and intelligent Right — have staring eyes?

But the most striking convergence of opinions occurred between a rich, smooth, Eton and Christchurch educated Tory capitalist, and a rough-hewn, hard-left, working-class Socialist from a mining seat.

Jonathan Aitken (C, Thanet S) told ministers, in the politest possible way, that it could soon be time for Britain to leave the EU. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover), told ministers in the rudest possible way, that we should have done so years ago. The Boulevardier of Belgrave, hand in paw with the Beast of Bolsover. Some convergence.

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'She would not take no for answer'

Housewife ran at me like a prop forward, says accused lawyer

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE slightly built wife of a wealthy businessman was accused yesterday of acting like a "rugby prop forward" during a struggle with her husband's solicitor.

Allen Chubb, who is 6ft 3in, said he had used minimum force when Laura Harold charged into his office, and had pinned the 5ft 2in housewife to the floor only to restrain her until police arrived.

Mr Chubb, 52, a former special police constable, has pleaded not guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and false imprisonment in a private prosecution brought by Mrs Harold.

A jury at Inner London Crown Court has been told that Mrs Harold, 32, a housewife with two children, had called at the solicitors on her husband's behalf to demand the deeds to their £1 million house.

But Mr Chubb, the senior partner of Child and Child in Belgravia, refused to hand them over because of a disputed £3,500 bill he alleged the Harolds had failed to pay.

On the second day of his trial yesterday, Mr Chubb said he had been calm and collected when he first ejected Mrs Harold from the building. He said in an interview with police: "After a short interlude, Mrs Harold got up and charged back into the premises with her head down. She didn't say anything. She charged along the hall like a rugby prop forward."

"I caught her with both arms and she either fell or I pushed her to the floor on her back. I was worried she might get hurt and my objective was not to hurt her. I therefore pinned her to the floor," Mrs Harold, who weighs 7½ stone



Harold: said to suffer flashbacks of incident

against Mr Chubb's 14½ stone, claims that she went back into the building to retrieve her fur coat, which had been left behind when she was dragged along the floor.

The court has been told that Mrs Harold was covered in bruises from that incident and her earlier ejection, in which she alleged she was dragged on her back from an interview room and thrown down a flight of stone steps into the street.

The court heard a statement from a hospital doctor who said Mrs Harold, who spent a week in hospital after the incident in April 1995, had suffered "multiple bruises" which were visible two days later. A psychiatrist's report said: "She has been suffering flashbacks to the face of the solicitor. She felt ill and unable to cope. She could not cope with her children and felt the demands of normal life were overwhelming."

Mr Chubb told police: "I did not attack her or kick her or hit her. I would expect some

bruising on her lower legs but that is more the result of her own actions, not of my own, occasioned by her resisting her lawful removal from the premises."

Mr Chubb told police that she started shouting when he refused to hand over the deeds of the un-mortgaged property which her husband Michael wanted to hand over to his bankers in connection with a property deal at the back of the couple's home in Belgravia. "She would not take no for an answer," and refused to go, obliging him to use "no more than reasonable force" to remove her.

He said that his treatment of her had been gentle and that she bounced along the floor on her bottom as he pulled her, and at one stage tried to anchor herself by hooking her legs around the leg of a desk in the reception area.

Mr Chubb denied throwing her out of the building and said that he tumbled as he pulled her through the front door and fell onto her. "I don't see how I could have used less force than I did. I thought I behaved reasonably. I believe that what I did was lawful and proper."

The solicitor said he regarded Michael Harold, a property developer and industrialist, "as a bully". On the day of the alleged assault Mr Harold paid an early-morning visit to Child and Child's premises, demanding the return of the deeds, the court was told.

Mr Chubb, of Barnes, south London, said the businessman made clear that he was prepared to search the offices for the papers himself. "This made me very angry," the solicitor said. He told the court he called the police, but Mr Harold had left by the time they arrived.

The case continues today.



Julia Carling, named satellite television personality of the year yesterday amid further royal allegations

Julia Carling rules out reconciliation

By EMMA WILKINS

JULIA CARLING, the estranged wife of the England rugby captain, said yesterday there was no chance of a reconciliation with her husband amid further allegations about his relationship with the Princess of Wales.

Mrs Carling, 31, who was named satellite television personality of the year at an award ceremony in London, shared the billing with the Princess's *Panorama* interview, which won a prize for the year's best factual programme. Mrs Carling, who conducts celebrity interviews on VH1, a music channel owned by MTV, collected her award

from the Television and Radio Industries Club at the Grosvenor House hotel, Park Lane.

According to a newspaper, Mr Carling confessed to an intimate relationship with the Princess during an argument with his wife last year. The newspaper claimed the story came from an unnamed friend of Mrs Carling.

After accepting her award, Mrs Carling said: "This has really made my day, along with a few hundred photographers. I hope I am seen more on the television and not in the headlines." Rejecting any chance of a reconciliation, Mrs Carling went on: "I have to see this terrible period through. It's not

great but life goes on." A spokeswoman for the Princess of Wales refused to confirm or deny the reports of a relationship. "This is a private conversation said to be between Julia Carling and her husband. We are not commenting on it at all," she said.

When she learnt of reports of her husband's relationship, Mrs Carling issued a late-night statement through her solicitors Forsyte Saunders Kerman. It said that Mrs Carling was very distressed by the disclosure and regretted its appearance in a newspaper. A spokesman for Mrs Carling's solicitors said yesterday that the firm had nothing more to add to the statement.

Accident victim woke up in boot

By ROBIN YOUNG

A MOTORIST who mistakenly thought he had killed a barmaid in an accident bundled her into his boot and drove away.

Donna Hayes, 33, recovered consciousness and banged on the roof of the boot until the driver, Philip Hackwell, 28, stopped almost two miles down the road. Yesterday Mr Hackwell, of Reydon, Suffolk, appeared at Ipswich Crown Court and denied attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Jane Davies, for the prosecution, said that when Mr Hackwell, a turkey factory worker, opened the boot and helped Mrs Hayes out he told her: "I am sorry. I thought I had killed you so I put you in the boot."

He then put Mrs Hayes in the front seat and drove her to a friend's house where a doctor and ambulance were called. Mrs Hayes, a mother of three, spent the night in hospital and was treated for a broken shoulder, concussion

and bruises to her leg. Miss Davies said, but had since been unable to return to work and still suffered from vertigo and nightmares because of her experience.

Mrs Hayes told police that she had been walking to work at the Cherry Tree pub in Stoven, Suffolk, on October 5 last year. The last thing she remembered was seeing a red Vauxhall Chevette parked in a field about 50 yards from the road.

She could remember nothing more until she recovered consciousness and realised that she was in the boot. She said she knocked hard until the car stopped. "The next thing I was being helped out of the boot by a man."

Miss Davies said that Mr Hackwell had initially been charged with false imprisonment and had given police a full account of what happened. He had also told police he had been suffering from stress and had been sleeping in his car for the previous two nights.

The case continues today.

Robbers manacle soccer chairman

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE chairman of Leeds United Football Club was overpowered and handcuffed by masked robbers during a £200,000 raid at his home. Leslie Silver, 71, the millionaire semi-retired owner of a Leeds paint manufacturing company, was manacled to a door while three men forced his wife Sheila to open the safe and hand over cash and jewellery valued at more than £200,000.

Last night Mr Silver said he and his wife had been watching television on Monday. Shortly after 8.30pm the raiders, all wearing black balaclavas, smashed their way in through a downstairs window of the house at Seacroft, West Yorkshire.

They warned the couple not to look at them and forced them to lie face down on the carpet before throwing a blanket over them. Mr Silver said: "I was pushed to the floor and we were both handcuffed. They took my wife to the safe

and tied me to the snooker room door. When they had gone I managed to reach out for a phone and call 999."

"They were in the house for about 20 minutes but it seemed like 20 years. It was a terrifying experience. Obviously I was concerned about my wife. There was no indication of any violence, but it was fairly brutal. The worst part was our fears for each other when we were separated. There was no way we could sleep last night."

The raiders stole every item of Mrs Silver's jewellery before leaving the couple handcuffed to the door. They managed to free themselves before police arrived.

The raiders were slim and white. One was 6ft 1in, in his mid-twenties and wore white training shoes with yellow and brown markings. A second man was 5ft 8in.

Police said the robbers must have had a vehicle. They appealed for information from anyone who saw one near the house that night.

Cleared barrister returns to his pigs

By TIM JONES AND RUSSELL JENKINS

A PIG-breeding barrister was acquitted yesterday of refusing to provide a breathalysed specimen after magistrates were told he had been the victim of a police vendetta.

Iain Whitney, 46, intends to bring private prosecutions against members of the Warwickshire force who arrested him. He claimed he had become a police target after falling out with a sergeant over shared land on which he kept his pigs.

Since the incident last August, Mr Whitney has sent 30 black and white saddlebacks to market, including Bunkers Hill Dictator The First, which won him his first prize at the Royal Show. Outside Rugby Magistrates Court he said: "I could no longer work as a police prosecutor so I needed the money. Sadly, Bunkers Hill has now been turned into sausages."

Elisabeth Barrett, Mr Whitney's counsel, told the court



Mr Whitney's herd of saddlebacks went to market

he had been the victim of an orchestrated campaign by police to catch him. She said it was based on a long-running grudge conducted by Sergeant George Stepney after the two fell out over the shared piece of land.

Miss Barrett said Sergeant Stepney had compiled an intelligence report alleging, untruthfully, that Mr Whitney

was a notorious drink driver with an alcohol abuse problem.

"One of Her Majesty's officers has used his position of power, given to him to be exercised lawfully and fairly towards other citizens in order to pursue his own private vendetta. This is nothing to do with reasonable suspicion and everything to

do with the desire of Sergeant Stepney to discredit Mr Whitney."

Mr Whitney told the court that on the night of his arrest he had been terrified when an unmarked police car drove close behind him as he was taking a friend home from a pub. "When I dropped my friend off I ran away because I was frightened." The prosecution claimed he refused to be breath-tested because he was well over the legal limit.

Outside the court Mr Whitney, of Pillerton Hersey, Warwickshire, said he planned to open a practice in Warwick specialising in defence cases. "I can go back to my dream of trying to recreate the ancient Essex pig strain."

Warwickshire Police said in a statement: "The case was properly brought and the evidence heard. The court has now given its verdict. Because of the private prosecution pending against officers involved, which will be rigorously defended, we can make no further comments."

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Bus queue defender jailed for head butt

AN ACCOUNTANT who head butted a man he thought was trying to push into a bus queue was jailed for six weeks yesterday. Keith Finucane, 36, lost his cool while waiting for a bus during a Tube strike on a hot afternoon.

His victim, Massimo Balestra, was attacked after he paused near the crowded bus stop in the City of London to chat to a friend. Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court was told. Finucane assumed that Mr Balestra intended to push into the queue and began shouting and swearing at him.

Mr Balestra pushed him away but Finucane butted him in the mouth, cutting his lip. Finucane had denied assault but was convicted after a three-day trial in January and returned for sentencing yesterday.

Karen Blore, in mitigation, blamed the incident on a "momentary loss of control" by a man who "felt he was protecting the interest of others waiting in the bus queue". But Judge Lincoln Crawford said: "If you are protecting people at a bus stop, you don't object to someone jumping a queue by head butting that person in the mouth."

Miss Blore said that Finucane, of Bethnal Green, east London, was an industrious man of good character, whose "future employment" would be in question if he were jailed. James Dawson, head of personnel at Finucane's employer, the solicitors Clifford Chance, told the judge that Finucane was "well-respected within the firm" and explained that he was the main contact in London for two of the firm's international offices.

Jailing Finucane, Judge Crawford said: "This man didn't simply push him away, you head butted him in the mouth. By any comparison, this is a case of the nastiest assault you can mete out to anyone. Your behaviour was appalling on that day." Finucane was ordered to pay £750 costs and £750 compensation to Mr Balestra.



Alexandra Nechita in London: her artistic embrace includes Picasso-like Cubism, as in *The Comedy Lover*, below, but some critics seek to put her talents into perspective

Brush with fame draws sceptics

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British art world is viewing with scepticism a ten-year-old girl hailed as "the new Picasso" for semi-abstract paintings selling for up to £40,000 in America.

As Alexandra Nechita, the daughter of a Romanian refugee, was presenting her *Dove and the Angel of Peace* to Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, and preparing to make similar gifts to other nations, there was concern yesterday that hype had become a fine art in its own right. Gillian Wolfe, head of education at Duhich Picture Gallery, said of the girl who has signed a £400,000 deal with a Los Angeles

publisher and sold 250 of her Cubist-inspired paintings: "What sort of ideas will she have of her own worth? She is going to see herself in terms of money."

Brian Sewell, the art critic, said that he did not believe in ten-year-old geniuses: "Most ten-year-olds can copy. If you dump them in front of a Picasso, they will make a Picasso, of sorts. If you put them in front of something difficult like a Leonardo, they will find themselves stymied."

He questioned why Alexandra's promoters had not invited his views: "That suggests that those putting on the hype realise there's not much there. If there was serious evidence of genius, they would surely have called in the dozen art critics who

really matter. This sounds like a journalist's delight, as opposed to a critic's delight."

She was in London yesterday, accompanied by her parents and a publisher, Ben Valenty, who owns a chain of galleries selling 19th and 20th-century art in Los Angeles, where Alexandra lives. He first saw her work in a children's exhibition at a local library. "I was bewildered." Responding to criticism that she was being pushed at a tender age, he said: "Where is it written that you have to be old and grey and half dead before you can have a reasonable career? It used to be that way." Mr Valenty said that William Emboden, who worked for many years at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art,

was among scholars and critics who had praised her work: "He said that 'genius is not too big a word for her'."

One observer said: "The success of contemporary art is as dependent on marketing as on the talent... she is being marketed by virtue of the fact that she is ten. Romanian and an emigré. People are buying into her story."

James Roundell, a dealer in Impressionist and 20th-century art, compared Alexandra to young Eastern bloc gymnasts who were pushed to the limit: "I wonder whether it is entirely natural." He said that it was too early to assess whether her talent would transform into genius. An artist has to have lived: "At ten, you haven't lived."



Prodigies blessed by genius are rare outside realm of music

By JOE JOSEPH

STARTLING musicians often bloom early, like crocuses — and many wilt just as swiftly — but painters, sculptors and writers take longer to flower.

Alexandra Nechita would be in skippy company if Madame Tussaud's decided to open a gallery of child geniuses in the visual arts. Details of artists' lives in the Renaissance are only patchily documented, but it is thought Michelangelo did not start sculpting until he was 15. Picasso was hailed

as something special by the time he was a teenager and there is a story that when his father (also a painter) saw his son's pre-pubescent doodles, he threw away his own brushes and palette, saying it was pointless he painted again.

John Golding, former senior tutor at the Royal College of Art, says there are few other examples: "De-gas was a natural draughtsman from the moment he began, but Cézanne? Matisse? Neither were regarded as child prodigies."

Simon Wilson, a curator at the Tate Gallery in London, says: "Mil-

lais, the pre-Raphaelite, was tremendously typed as a child genius. At the age of nine he won the silver medal from the Royal Society of Arts for a drawing of the Battle of Marathon. He painted *Isabella*, after Keats's poem, when he was 13, and that really is one of the great British paintings of all time."

So while Mozart, Mendelssohn and Schubert all began composing before the age of 12, and while Chopin, Yehudi Menuhin and Jascha Heifetz had given public concerts by the time they were 11, and while Lorin Maazel was con-

ducting orchestras before he was out of short trousers, prodigies in painting or writing are much rarer.

Writers and artists tend to improve with age. Oscar Wilde may have had nothing to declare but his genius, but he was way past 10 when he made that boast to a New York customs officer. Artists are thought to be hitting their stride once they pass 50.

"Painters and sculptors just evolve more slowly than other kinds of artists," says Mr Wilson. "The greatest art does reflect a mature view of life and view of the world."



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Frustrated artist photographed buildings after leaving his mark in red, black and silver

Aerosol graffiti vandal jailed for five years

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A GRAFFITI vandal who carried out an 18-month campaign spraying murals on buildings and vehicles was jailed for five years yesterday.

Simon Sunderland, 23, received one of the most severe sentences handed down to a "tagger" after spraying bridges, shops, buses and a town hall in a campaign of criminal damage running to tens of thousands of pounds.

His graffiti, which he always marked with his trademark symbol, a clenched fist, became a familiar sight throughout South Yorkshire. Sheffield Crown Court was told. Sunderland, known as "Fista" or "Fisto", took photographs of sites he had sprayed but never used foul language or sexual or racial abuse. Judge Moore said his case was "exceptional" and others must be deterred.

"If the people of this area could see the photographic evidence of the damage you have caused they would probably be very shocked," he said. "People throughout the county will know what the Fista man did. The message from this court is clear. If you set out to target and spray the buildings of the people of South Yorkshire you will go to prison for a long time."

Sunderland's career began when he asked Barnsley council if it would provide walls for graffiti artists. The council refused and so the unemployed artist turned to vandalism. His main canvas was the



Simon Sunderland, whose graffiti murals were a familiar sight on buildings and bridges across South Yorkshire. Police found a huge array of spray cans at his home



urban sprawl of his native South Yorkshire and included motorway bridges and railway tunnels.

Working at speed and at night in his favourite colours of red, black and silver his paintings appeared on hundreds, possibly thousands, of sites. He once sprayed a double-decker bus that had broken down. On one occasion a passer-by challenged him as he sprayed. Sunderland's response was to turn

around and spray the man. Police, councils and transport authorities throughout South Yorkshire were alerted to his handiwork in the summer of 1992. For months council officials tried to track down the culprit and thousands of pounds was spent setting up a team of "grimebusters". It cost £7,000 just to remove his work and the operation to tidy up the city from all graffiti, not just Sunderland's, cost £500,000 a year in taxpayers' money.

Sunderland was arrested when an off-duty police officer saw him spray-painting a bridge over the M1 at Birdwell, near Barnsley. In the bedroom of his former home at Worsbrough Bridge, Barnsley, police discovered a vast array of spray paint cans, marker pens and maps of the territory he covered. They discovered he belonged to a rave-style subculture where graffiti was considered an art form. The

defence said he now realised his behaviour was unacceptable and wanted to channel his skills into lawful activity. "He is planning to take a course in fine art. He is keen to improve himself and broaden his horizons," he said.

In an interview with a Sheffield underground magazine Sunderland explained the attractions of his art. "I look for walls wherever I go. It gives me a buzz when I see it. It feels like people know you."

Sunderland had previous convictions for criminal damage and theft of spray cans stretching back to August 1990 and committed several offences while on probation for criminal damage.

Two teenage graffiti artists prosecuted in Newcastle in 1994 were sentenced to three months each in a young offenders' institution after their four-man gang caused £300,000 worth of criminal damage to public property.

David McGonigal, for the

defence, said he now realised his behaviour was unacceptable and wanted to channel his skills into lawful activity.

He is planning to take a course in fine art. He is keen to improve himself and broaden his horizons.

VC won in war's final days fetches £22,000 at auction

By JOHN YOUNG

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1918, nine days before the Armistice, Regimental Sergeant-Major James Clarke commanded a Lancashire Fusiliers platoon in the final advance on the German lines in Picardie. His "conspicuous bravery" won him the Victoria Cross that was sold at auction at Spink's, London, yesterday for £22,000. The anonymous buyer also paid £19,000 for a VC and Distinguished Conduct Medal won a few weeks

earlier by another Lancashire Fusilier, Lance Sergeant Edward Smith.

RSM Clarke, from Winsford, Cheshire, went to France in 1915. His citation states that during the Battle of the Somme he "led his men with great determination and, on being held up by heavy machinegun fire, rushed forward through a thick, strongly held ridge, captured in succession four machineguns and single-handedly bayoneted the crews".

Later he led the remains of

his platoon to the capture of three machineguns and many prisoners. RSM Clarke died in 1947 and was buried in Rochdale with full military honours.

Lance Sergeant Smith, from Maryport, Cumbria, won his DCM at the Battle of Amiens in August 1918. Two weeks later, during the Battle of Bapaume, he won the VC after he captured a machinegun post. "Regardless of all danger, and almost without halting in his rush on the post, this NCO shot and killed at least



Clarke captured guns

six of the enemy," his citation said. In 1939 he re-enlisted as a lieutenant and served with the British Expeditionary Force in France where he was wounded and died on January 12, 1940.

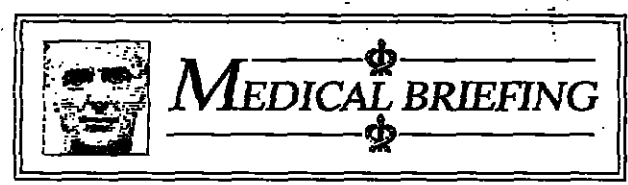
Declining vision turns old age into twilight existence

FAIRGROUND mirrors distorting the image of the viewer do not cause alarm because the reason for the effect is obvious. But some elderly people become concerned when they look at their bathroom tiles and find the squares are distorted.

General vision in the old becomes progressively worse. They find they have to hold books more closely, need stronger magnifying glasses and more light to illuminate the page.

One of the common causes of this progressive loss of sight is macular degeneration, in which the retina becomes as threadbare as an old pair of pyjamas, and the blood vessels behind the retina intrude into those areas that have declined through wear and tear. Once blood vessels protrude into the retinal pigmented epithelium, they wrench the remaining patches of retina out of position, they leak fluid, cause haemorrhages and scarring.

Various efforts have been



Dr Thomas Stuttford

made to stop the growth of the blood vessels. This week an American has written to *The Wall Street Journal* complaining that, although by virtue of his sex he cannot become pregnant, he is being denied by the Food and Drug Administration treatment with thalidomide at a clinic in Philadelphia. Thalidomide, which became internationally notorious for causing foetal abnormalities, has the ability to stop vascular budding of blood vessels and thereby the blood vessels from proliferating.

In Britain, specialists have known about the effect of thalidomide on the blood vessels for some time. A spokes-

man for the Royal College of Ophthalmologists said trial results in America were unlikely to be dramatic. "In Britain we are working on similar lines and there have been some encouraging results with radiotherapy which could possibly offer a better chance of success."

Robert Cooling, medical director at Moorfields Eye Hospital, believes that the clue to treatment of macular degeneration lies in work on tissue transplantation, which could give a patient a healthier retina. He is gloomy about the long-term success of projects which rely on inhibiting the blood vessels that take advantage of a faulty retina.

Aircraft hit deer on take-off

A passenger plane carrying 20 people had to make an emergency landing after hitting two deer on take-off from Teesside International airport, Co Durham, on January 29, it emerged yesterday. Nobody was injured but the propeller and wheel housing were damaged. Pilots have been asked to watch out for deer and the area is now routinely checked by Air Traffic Control.

Rapist escapes

Police started a nationwide manhunt after a convicted rapist clambered through a window and escaped from a secure psychiatric unit at Milton Keynes General Hospital in Buckinghamshire. Paul Bates, 41, was jailed for eight years in March 1995 for rape and sexual assault.

Switched-on city

Aberdeen officially launched its city centre closed-circuit television system, which is due to become the largest in Europe when all 53 cameras are installed later this year. The £1 million system, funded by public and private money, already has 20 cameras in operation.

Apology to duke

The Duke of Roxburgh received a public apology in the High Court over an allegation in the *London Evening Standard* that his second wife had left him because of his homosexual relationship with his butler. The newspaper also agreed to pay the duke's full costs.

Baby grands

Bringing up a child costs the average family about £20,000 from conception to age five, a survey for Asda has found. Mothers-to-be on average spend £373 "from conception to contractions", on items such as extra food and maternity wear. Disposable nappies can cost up to £631.

Pride of place

The BBC's production of *Pride and Prejudice* has won an award from the English Tourist Board for an outstanding contribution to English tourism. The £1 million drama, widely shown abroad, was filmed in Wiltshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Warwick.

Going for growth

A mower that uses solar power to cut grass by itself is to go on sale. The £2,000 Husqvarna machine contains a computer to monitor light conditions and decide when to cut the grass. A low-voltage electric cable marks the lawn boundary to stop the mower going astray.

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Low-flying RAF pilot 'terrified baby girl'

By PAUL WILKINSON

PANDEMONTUM broke out in an English village when an RAF pilot buzzed his family home, a court martial was told yesterday.

A two-year-old girl was terrified and animals panicked as the Hawk jet swept low over Staple in Kent, where the parents of Flight Lieutenant Nicholas Paine, 28, live. One woman told the military court that it reminded her of the Second World War and said she could clearly see the pilot in his cockpit.

Karen Young said the jet flew closely over 30ft-high trees in her garden. She told the hearing at RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, that her granddaughter cried and clung to her. "It took her three months to accept that any plane wasn't going to do the same thing," she said.

Flt Lt Paine denies flying in a manner likely to cause distress. The court martial has heard that Flt Lt Paine, who at one time was the youngest RAF pilot to fly F3 Tornado fighters and had been on sorties over Bosnia, was returning from an exercise at nearby RAF Manston.

He decided to mark his birthday the previous day with a "visit" to his parents, Robin and Alexandra Paine at Mill Cottage, Staple. Wing Commander Kim Barlow, for the prosecution, said the jet flew low but it was not suggested it went below 250ft. Dee Cullen, a teacher, said: "The horses bolted and my peacock hid in his hutch for three days."

The hearing continues.

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Government says no to harmonisation for its own sake and integration driven by ideology

Britain will be guided by the national interest

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE bedrock of the European Union is the independent democratic nation state, John Major states in a foreword to the White Paper, *A Partnership of Nations*, published yesterday.

Underlining his determination to keep Britain at the heart of the debate about Europe's future, the Prime Minister declares: "We shall pursue our national interests, as our partners pursue theirs, yet with a strong sense of shared purpose and common enterprise." He adds: "It is in the interest of the European Union that it should develop with the grain of national cultures and traditions, especially as it enlarges to the east and south. That is the United Kingdom's interest too."

The document states that the UK's role as a leading member of the European Union is "vital to our national interest". Despite its substantial achievement the EU is experiencing a period of uncertainty and self-doubt. The Maastricht process polarised opinion in several member states and exposed a level of public unease and alienation which must concern all those, like the Government, who want the EU to fulfil its potential.

Rejecting the concept of an ever closer political union, developing gradually to a United States of Europe, the paper says that national parliaments "must remain the central focus of democratic legitimacy".

It says: "We shall not accept harmonisation for its own sake, or further European integration which is driven by ideology rather than the prospect of practical benefit. Above all we shall be guided by a cool assessment of the British interest. Common European decision-making, as opposed to co-operation, can only be justified where it brings benefits for British security, prosperity and quality of life which are so significant that they justify some loss of unfettered national control over decision-making in the area concerned."

The EU needs to accept a degree of flexibility without falling into the trap of a two-tier Europe with a hard core either of countries or of policies. "There may be areas in which it is perfectly healthy for some member states to integrate more closely or more quickly than others. It is important, however, that such policies only become

Union policies, and draw on the Community's institutions, including the budget, where this is agreed by all."

The following is the Government's position on the key areas identified as issues for the inter-governmental conference.

Legislative process: The Government will be bringing forward proposals to entrench subsidiarity further into the Treaty of Rome and a more systematic consultation of business, parliaments and other interested parties about future legislation. It will continue efforts to reduce the regulatory burden of European law. It is considering ideas for limiting the scope of EU action in some areas, in particular to prevent the health and safety article being used for social policy by the back door, and for improving the monitoring and enforcement of European legislation.

Qualified majority voting: The

Decisions to send servicemen to risk their lives are for national governments

Government believes that there is a strong case on grounds of democratic legitimacy for increasing the relative influence of the more populous states, such as the UK, which wields 10 votes out of 87. At present the system gives one vote for every 200,000 Luxembourgish but only one for every 8 million Germans and one for every 6 million Britons.

But it opposes a further extension of qualified majority voting. "At a time when there is serious public concern about the centralisation of decision making the case has not been made for making it easier to override the objections of member states in matters of particular sensitivity. We do not accept the argument that unanimity in those areas to which it currently applies would be incompatible with effective decision-making, even in an enlarged Union."

Commissioners: The Government understands the importance that member states attach to hav-

ing their own commissioner. "With further enlargements, however, it may not be appropriate to retain the present system."

The European Parliament: Ruling out new powers for the Parliament, the Government says it is most likely to win public support and develop its role by the responsible exercise of the powers it already has, particularly by monitoring and restraining EU spending and fighting fraud and mismanagement. It does not accept "in a Union of nation states, that the European Parliament can displace the primary role of national parliaments".

European Court of Justice: The Government says it is committed to a strong independent court without which it would be impossible to ensure the application of EU law and prevent abuse of power. But its functioning can be improved. Some judgments have imposed disproportionate costs on governments or businesses, even where they have made every effort to meet their obligations. The Government's proposals include:

□ Strengthening the ability of the court to limit retrospective application of its judgments

□ Introducing the principle that a country should only be liable for damages in "cases of serious and manifest breach of its obligations"

□ Applying a national time limit to all cases based on EU law

□ Bringing in streamlined procedures for the rapid amendment of EU legislation which has been interpreted in a way never intended by ministers

□ An accelerated process for time-sensitive cases.

Common foreign and security policy: While it is in Britain's interest that members of the EU should speak and act together as much as possible on the world stage, "we must be clear that CFSP can never become an exclusive policy which would replace national foreign policy. Where specific British interests are at stake we shall insist upon retaining our freedom of action. We shall not therefore accept a commitment to be constrained by collective decisions which we do not support."

The Government says it will be pressing for a more active and effective CFSP while maintaining its inter-governmental character. The IGC will look at further options to improve the planning

and analysis of the policy as well as proposals to increase coherence. "In particular we are ready to look at the idea of appointing a single figure to represent the foreign policy of the Union to the outside world for CFSP. The terms of reference for this office would need to be carefully drafted to make clear that such a figure was fully answerable to the Council of Ministers, representing the collective views of member states and not deciding them."

The Government does not accept that the unanimity provisions for the policy are a constraint on its development, nor that it would be strengthened by the introduction of voting models which overrode the concerns of a particular member state. "If there is no collective will within the European Union to act, it is unwise to try to force action through artificial voting procedures."

CFSP will only carry weight internationally if it represents a genuinely common policy, not a majority one.

Defence: The Government is keen to develop European defence co-operation. But questions of defence go to the heart of national sovereignty. "Decisions to send service men and women to risk their lives are for national governments, accountable to national parliaments. They are not matters for decision in the European Union. Member states must be free to act in defence of their national interests. Our proposals are rooted in that conviction. They are also based on our belief in the overriding importance of the Atlantic Alliance as the bedrock of our future security."

Sustaining a strong EU commitment to European security is an essential part of this. But in the case of smaller peacekeeping or humanitarian operations it will not always be reasonable to expect the US to participate. European defence co-operation must therefore be organised in such a way that, while bearing their full share of the burden within Nato and without building new structures that duplicate those already in the Alliance, European countries are also able to act on their own when necessary.

The Western European Union provides the best framework for the further development of this co-operation. The EU does not have



Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, making his statement to the Commons yesterday

any of the operational expertise or working understanding with Nato which the WEU has gradually acquired over the last few years. It would be inappropriate for the Commission, European Parliament or the European Court of Justice to have any role in defence decision making. The WEU should

We cannot be forced to give up our opt-out from the social chapter

be kept as an autonomous organisation within its own treaty base and its operational capabilities should be developed to enable it to operate effectively in peacekeeping, humanitarian and other limited crisis-management tasks.

Justice and home affairs: Organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal immigration must be tackled on a multinational

basis. But these are matters of high domestic political sensitivity involving questions of national sovereignty such as the rules governing the admission of third country nationals, operations of police and customs and the criminal justice system. "There can be no question of supranational solutions imposed on member states in these areas. This area of work requires special procedures in the 'third pillar', where all decisions must continue to be taken by unanimity and the role of the Parliament, Court and Commission are strictly limited."

Role of national parliaments: National parliaments remain the primary focus of democratic legitimacy in the EU, holding ministers to account. The Government wants to develop this role. It wants a minimum period for parliaments to scrutinise Community documents and notably draft legislation entrenched in the Treaty of Rome, and a greater role for national parliaments in the justice and home affairs pillar.

Social chapter: It is no secret that other wish to see the UK's opt-out removed. "The Government's position, however, is well known

and equally constant. We were not prepared to accept the social chapter proposed at Maastricht. The UK will not give up its opt-out and cannot be forced to do so."

Common fisheries policy: The Government accepts the need for a CFP, but believes its operation must be improved. It is determined to address "quota hopping" and other problems. "If treaty changes are needed we shall seek them."

Animal welfare: Further progress is needed to achieve a real and lasting improvement in welfare standards. The Government will put forward a proposal at the IGC to incorporate the principle of animal welfare in the Treaty of Rome, calling on EU legislation to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

The paper concludes that the Government's approach is "constructive, realistic and rooted in the British national interest". The IGC offers a chance not only to introduce practical reforms but to reassure people that the EU "remains the servant of its members, not a threat to their independence. That is the right way to build public support."

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Stand by for much posturing between now and the election

The most revealing sentences in yesterday's White Paper were about the IGC timetable. "There is no fixed end-date for the IGC. It is likely to last between one year and 18 months." In other words, until after the next British election.

The White Paper is not intended to produce an early agreement. It is about preventing a Tory split. Malcolm Rifkind played his cards skilfully yesterday. He emphasised the benefits of EU membership, but then talked about resisting the drift towards supranational institutions, as summed up in the White Paper's title, *A Partnership of Nations*. He touched all the right buttons in his list of British proposals - subsidiarity, limits to Community competence and action, keeping foreign, defence and home affairs matters the responsibility of national governments and of inter-governmental co-operation; and reform of the workings of the European Court of Justice. The latter is what angers Tory MPs most at present and Mr Rifkind's proposals to limit the retrospective application of judgments, for an appeal system and to apply a good

faith test in assessing damages went down well.

Consequently, Mr Rifkind ensured that the White Paper was not immediately denounced by the sceptics - partly thanks to some assiduous briefing beforehand. Who was it I spotted in the Ambassador's Waiting Room next to the Foreign Secretary's office yesterday morning but Iain Duncan Smith and Bill Cash? Ministers were drawing the sceptics' attention to paragraph 20(h) limiting the scope of Community action "to prevent the health and safety article being used for social policy by the back door and to prevent fiscal measures being tacked onto single market or environmental proposals".

But the sceptics' restraint may not last long. The White Paper is a good deal less sceptical in detail than Mr Rifkind's public rhetoric. Paragraph 12 says: "We must be realistic therefore about the sort of changes we can hope to achieve at the IGC, just as we are clear about the sort of changes we will not accept. If we were to press ideas which stand no chance

of general acceptance, some others would seek to impose an integrationist agenda which would be equally unacceptable from our point of view."

There were warnings in the Commons by several Tory sceptics about what might happen if the Government's proposals are not supported by other countries. Jonathan Aitken was merely more outspoken than most in arguing that "if by any chance these important battles were to fail... then for the first time in many years this House would have to start to seriously consider the option of withdrawal". That remains a minority view, but it shows how quickly the sceptics may condemn any sign of "backsliding" by the Government and to demand tougher measures.

How long will the sceptics be willing to give the Government the benefit of the doubt? Tough language about treaty changes over the European Court may limit public rumblings for the moment, though many Tory MPs are always ready to raise the stakes on anything to do with

Europe. The Labour response yesterday was revealingly subdued. Robin Cook made much of Tory divisions but, uncharacteristically, welcomed some of the substance - in particular, the sections on justice, defence and foreign policy. Labour does not regard Europe as a big election issue.

So until the election we are likely to have a good deal of posturing, not just from Britain but from other EU members. The real negotiations will start in a year or so. But, as a chart in the White Paper underlines, the IGC could then easily become entangled with the start of far more important negotiations in 1998 on enlargement, monetary union and a review of budgetary arrangements. The White Paper is merely a preliminary manoeuvre in this long campaign.

PETER RIDDELL

Rifkind risks bold strategy

By George Brock, European Editor

WITH the publication of yesterday's White Paper, Malcolm Rifkind has finally emerged from the long shadow cast by his predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd.

For Mr Rifkind, a politician who shares the reputation for caution and care traditionally associated with Edinburgh lawyers, risks offending his counterparts in the rest of Europe with a strategy the polite Mr Hurd might have declined.

The momentum of European integration may have slowed during the past few years, but it is still powerful enough to deliver regular reminders that Britain is in a minority on many issues. Britain does not have an ally - as does France, which can count

on almost automatic support from Germany - to help to achieve the kind of success General de Gaulle won by a combination of secret diplomacy and plain obduracy.

The White Paper, appearing just under three weeks before the EU's inter-governmental conference (IGC) is launched in Italy, brings the negotiating agenda into focus. Both the French and German Governments have been uncharacteristically vague about their aims so far.

The main flashpoints between Britain and her partners appear to be the extension of majority voting; arguments over words about future European defence; crime and immigration; and the powers of the European Court of Justice and the European Par-

liament. Lurking beneath this agenda is the potentially crucial issue of whether the EU treaty will be changed to give explicit approval to states that want to integrate further or more quickly than their partners.

The outcome of the IGC, likely to become the Treaty of Amsterdam in June next year, will heavily depend on how Britain, France and Germany can resolve their differences. On majority voting, Germany and France are committed to overcoming Britain's resistance. Formulas on European defence divide Britain and France, leaving Germany stranded in the middle. On immigration and the powers of the European Parliament, France may join Britain in resisting significant change.

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ADAMIRAL

Tory sceptics still fear a federal superstate

By Nicholas Wood, Alice Thomson and Jill Sherman

HARDLINE Tory Euro-sceptics warned the Government yesterday that its White Paper would not halt the drive towards a federal Europe.

Jonathan Aitken stunned MPs by saying that the time could be approaching to consider pulling out of the European Union. And Norman Lamont said that all the elements were now in place for a European superstate.

But Malcolm Rifkind's promise of a renewed effort to curb the powers of the European Court of Justice appeared to be winning support among a significant group of right-wing Tories who have recently concentrated their energies on influencing policy from within.

Sir Michael Spicer, who led the Maastricht rebellion but now chairs the European Research Group, said that the 38-page document had given hope to those who believed that taking back powers from the court was the way to block a federal Europe. He was encouraged by the Government's readiness to challenge the court's tendency to fashion

social policy by the back door and to deal with the "ratchet effect" by demanding that EU directives need not be irreversible. "But the question is: can specific actions be put behind the rhetoric?"

Both groups of sceptics are united in their belief that only by clawing back powers from Brussels can Britain stop itself being sucked into a European superstate. But they were divided over whether the White Paper signalled genuine concessions by the Government.

Hardliners said that the threat of a revolt remained. Another fierce critic of the Government doubted that ministers could achieve their objectives given the veto wielded by other member states.

In the Commons, John Redwood, the sceptics' unofficial leader, allied himself with the hardliners, calling for a tougher stance by ministers. He said: "Given the way the European Court is demolishing our fishing industry and our social chapter opt-out, will the Government look at stronger measures to assert the

rights of this Parliament against the court?"

Mr Lamont told the Foreign Secretary: "The real test of what you have said is whether this country can, over the next few years, avoid being sucked into a European state of the kind which I discovered at the last inter-governmental conference many of our partners do actually want."

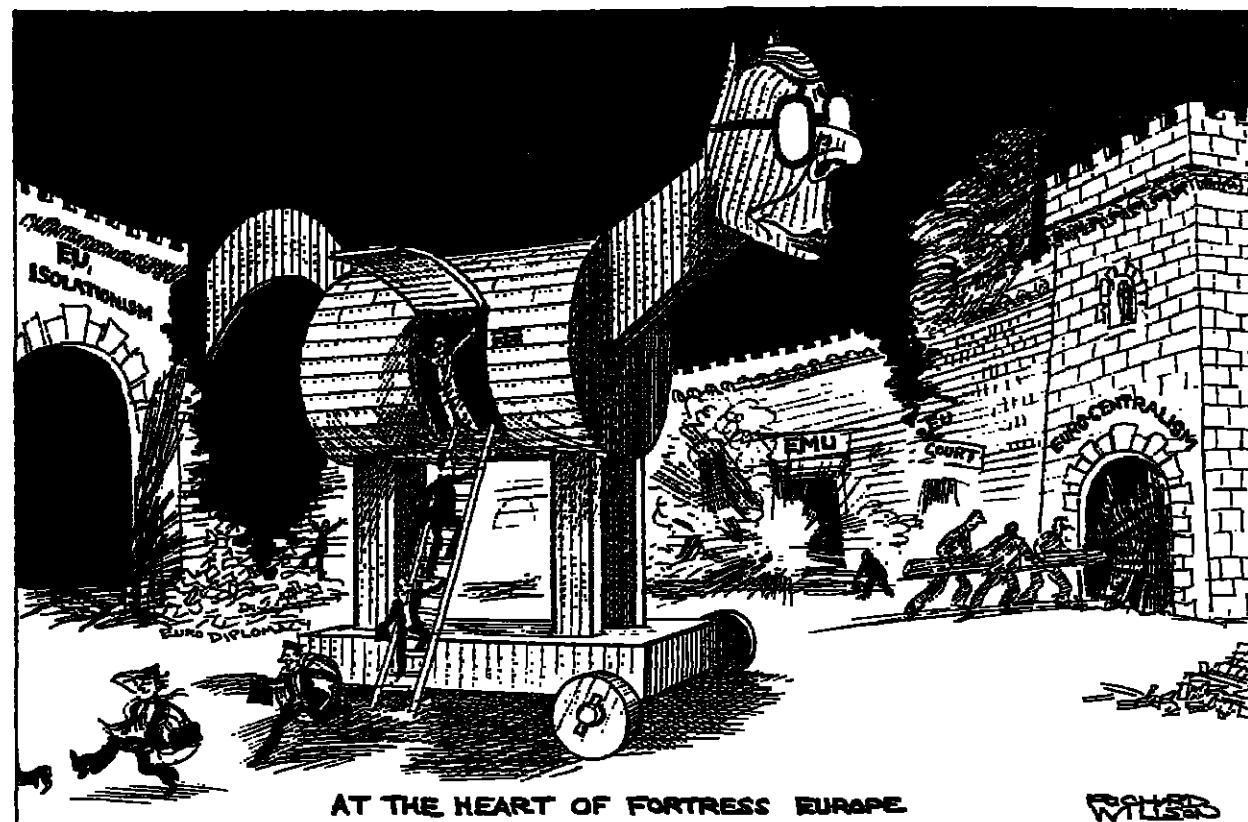
Mr Aitken said: "I welcome those parts of the White Paper which seem to strike some good Euro-sceptic themes for the first time. But may I warn you that if by any chance these important battles you and your team are going to fight were to fail, or if they were to be surrendered by the so-revealingly new Euro-philic Labour front bench we heard this afternoon, then for the first time for many years, this House would have to start to seriously consider the option of withdrawal."

Nicholas Budgen, one of the former whipless Tory MPs, praised Mr Rifkind for making it plain that Britain didn't want any further moves towards federalism in Europe.

"But may I suggest to you that that may not be enough for the British people, and that at some stage we are going to have to say 'no' to one of the ludicrous laws that come from Brussels — to disobey, and thus demonstrate to the peoples of Europe that we must have a looser relationship."

Bill Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, called for a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty. He said: "There is a clear sense in the electorates of Europe and in the UK that when one looks at the question of Bosnia, the exchange-rate mechanism, fishing, monetary union and a whole range of other matters the Maastricht treaty has failed the people of Europe."

Pro-European Tories were also split with Edwina Currie, a vice chairman of the cross-party European Movement, giving it five out of ten. "The White Paper would be far better if the government could move towards more of the pro-European proposals for reform that are on the table," she said. "One person's 'improvement' [frequently mentioned



AT THE HEART OF FORTRESS EUROPE

in the White Paper] is another person's concession. The UK Government will have to move from its position."

But Tim Rathbone, Tory MP for Lewes, welcomed the document and attacked the sceptics' pressure for a referendum on a single currency. "Those people who defend the rights of Parliament seem to

be those people who argue most vociferously for having a referendum which would undercut those rights," he said.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, went further than any of the Tory Euro-sceptics condemning the EU as 23 years of "unmitigated disaster". He said: "Millions of people out there are longing

for someone to say and admit that it's not worked, that the halcyon days are over."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that Labour "totally endorsed" what Mr Rifkind had said about justice, home affairs and the common foreign security policy, but he had failed to contribute to the single

currency debate. Mr Cook accused him of "pandering to the Tory backbenchers, trying to balance both sides", and said: "Mr Rifkind has come up with a White Paper that tries to please everyone and, as a result, will please no one."

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Brussels greets 'positive tone' with relief

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE White Paper was greeted with mild relief in Brussels yesterday as diplomats and Commission officials noted the Government's "unambiguous commitment" to the EU and that it had not sought to "reappropriate" powers.

The White Paper's pledge that Britain will play a leading role in the EU and its definition of the Union as "the basis of democracy and prosperity" offered some reassurance to officials and diplomats who were concerned by the increasingly Euro-sceptical rhetoric coming from London. Although the paper included the expected calls for reining-in the European Court, it did not contain any of the radical ideas suggested by some Tory MPs, such as revoking the common fisheries policy. "It has all the usual arguments but least they are sounding a positive note on Europe," a Commission official said.

However, much in the paper flies in the face of the Commission's desires for the inter-governmental conference, as well as those of Germany and most other member states. Just about all other states want more majority voting and more Commission management of justice

and home affairs. Most also want or will accept foreign policy actions that do not have unanimous backing.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, says that he takes Britain's headline demands with a pinch of salt, depicting them as an opening bid in a long round of negotiation.

"Standard British pragmatism" was how one French official summed up a first glance at the document, many of whose ideas are shared by President Chirac's administration. These include the refusal to extend the powers of the European Parliament and the desire to give national legislatures more say in the European law-making process. Britain's focus on the nation state, especially in foreign and defence policy, is shared by France, as is a desire to slim down the Commission and beef up the foreign policy secretariat.

Noticeably absent from the White Paper was a British slant on schemes promoted by France, Germany, the Commission and other states for a multiple-speed Europe, allowing countries to undertake deeper integration in the EU at their own pace.

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Treasury adviser accuses lottery of cheating the poor

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE National Lottery is little more than legalised fraud and must be abolished, one of the Treasury's "wise men" says today. Professor Tim Congdon says it "constitutes disguised taxation, redistributes from the poor to the rich, undermines savings and trivialises the State". He discloses that Baroness Thatcher, whom he used to advise on economic affairs, quickly rejected any notion of a state-run prize draw when Prime Minister.

"Mr Major is reported to be fascinated by the National Lottery and to regard it as an important achievement of his premiership, though Lady Thatcher, when she was Prime Minister, dismissed the idea after only peremptory consideration," Professor Congdon writes.

Camelot's licence requires it to redistribute 50.6 per cent of the stake as prizes, meaning that punters lose half their money each time they participate. So, if the public puts up



Congdon says draw was rejected by Mrs Thatcher

an initial stake of £100 million, takes part in the game for three months and reinvests its winnings each time, it will receive £28,171 after 12 weeks. Over six months, the return is £2 and over a year less than 1p. Professor Congdon says this might be called "cheating".

"If he were not deterred by the statute which created the National Lottery, a conscientious citizen should take its

perpetrators. Her Majesty's Government no less, to the Serious Fraud Office," Professor Congdon writes in today's *Economic Affairs*.

Alternatively, Camelot might be referred to the Securities and Futures Authority, which has fined companies for "mis-selling" personal pension products.

Before the welfare state, poor people would put £1 a week into an insurance policy for protection against unemployment, ill-health and redundancy, Professor Congdon says. "Nowadays too many of the same group of people do not put spare cash into insurance policies, but into lottery tickets."

"A family which repeatedly spends £5 a week on the lottery and always reinvests its winnings is likely, after 25 years, to have exactly nothing in return. A family which puts £5 a week into a standard insurance policy ought, after the same term, to have an asset worth over £30,000."



The Savi's pipistrelle rests in the hand of Vicky Hose, a park ranger. The bat, found in a backyard, is only the second sighted in Britain

Wandering bat rescued from a feline mauling

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A BAT that was saved from becoming a meal for two cats belongs to a species seen in Britain only once before. Wildlife experts are uncertain whether the male Savi's pipistrelle was a lone stowaway on a ship or belongs to a small migrant population.

The bat, nicknamed Wallace, was cornered by the cats in the backyard

of a house in Wallasey beside the Mersey and may have escaped from a ship that docked at Liverpool on the other side of the estuary.

Vicky Hose, a senior park ranger on the Wirral, who is nursing the bat back to health, said: "The lady in the house got to the bat just in time to rescue him. Luckily there were no holes in his wings or chewed bits. Normally when they are caught by cats they have claw marks that

develop infections later." Identification of the captive, weighing less than ten grams, came ten days later from Clemency Fisher, the chief bat specialist at Liverpool Museum. She said: "Savi's pipistrelle is a warm-area bat that likes mountainous regions and is found right across the Mediterranean. Male bats travel considerable distances and will fly a long way to set up a territory of their own." The only other firm sighting of

a *Pipistrellus savii* was several years ago when it crawled out of a box of nectarines brought by ship from Italy to Wick on the northeast coast of Scotland.

When Wallace has recovered his strength, the weather is warmer and his favourite diet of insects is more plentiful, he will be released close to where he was found in the hope that he will lead watchers to the roosting sites of any fellow migrants.

Thefts from cash machines reach a record £3.5m

By ADRIAN LEE

BANKS and building societies lost a record £3.5 million in thefts from cash machines last year. The figure was announced yesterday as banking sources said the gang that escaped with £87,000 from two cash dispensers at a Lloyds Bank branch in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, had deliberately chosen an old-fashioned machine.

Lloyds said the machines, sited in the bank's lobby, were due to be replaced. The apparent ease and speed with which the criminals forced open the machines prompted an immediate security review of lobby services. Police said a few simple tools were all that was needed.

The machines are made by a variety of manufacturers. The type in Peterborough is being phased out as part of an attempt to keep one step ahead of criminals who prey on Britain's 20,000 cash machines, which dispense £170 million a day.

A banking source said: "It is well known within the criminal fraternity that certain types of old-fashioned machines used by two banks are easier to get into than others." Cash machines have been targets since the first was

introduced by Barclays in 1967 at a branch in Edgware Road, London. Criminals have used forklift trucks to remove entire machines and, at the opposite end of the scale, built an entire shop facade complete with fake cash dispenser to obtain the cards and Pin codes of unwitting customers.

Richard Tyson-Davies, of the Association of Payment and Clearing Services, said: "It is an ongoing battle, we are not coy about that. There are a number of scams being used by criminals. Hopefully the latest is just a one-off but there will be a review and action will be taken if needed."

He said the losses were a tiny percentage of the total amount of cash dispensed from machines.

The Lloyds Peterborough branch was open yesterday after the installation of new cash machines. NatWest, Barclays and Midland all said the raid did not have any implications for them.

The amount stolen from cash machines rose by £300,000 last year at a time when plastic card fraud fell for the fourth consecutive year. Plastic card fraud amounted to £88.3 million last year, about half the 1992 level.

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Nato reinforces Sarajevo suburb as Serbs leave

FROM REUTER IN SARAJEVO

MUSLIM-CROAT authorities took control of the Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza from Bosnian Serbs yesterday as Nato moved in extra troops to try to limit looting and burning by the Serbs.

The streets of Ilidza and the inner-city Grbavica district, which the Serbs must hand over next week, were saturated with French peacekeepers. Admiral Leighton Smith, US Commander of the Nato mission, said: "We've got our guys out there and we're doing everything we can, short of shooting people."

The deployment was too late to prevent the burning of many buildings in Ilidza which had survived the 3½-year Bosnian war.

The Muslim-Croat Federation in Bosnia has now taken control of four of the five Serb suburbs in Sarajevo under the Dayton peace agreement.

Their Serb populations, claiming they fear retaliation after the wartime siege of the city, have mostly fled to territory under the control of their Government.

A joint force of federation police moved into Ilidza with a jubilant crowd of civilians, but Muslim police excluded nine of its Croat members because they were wearing the blue uniforms of Croat police. The Muslims and Croats have been forced into a reluctant alliance by US diplomacy.

Political feuding did not mar the jubilation among ordinary people on the streets of Ilidza. Muslim and Croat refugees poured in to see whether their homes had survived the wave of arson. Serb police had left on Monday, firing guns and throwing grenades as they drove off, after protecting the withdrawal of the Serb population.

Sarajevo's Mayor announced yesterday that he had resigned because of the exclusion of Croat deputies from the Sarajevo cantonal assembly.

In Moscow, President Yeltsin lifted an arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia in three stages, to be completed by June 11, unless the United Nations objects.



Naina Yeltsin: "She is charming and modest, which is always highly valued in Russia"

Embattled Yeltsin deploys wife as secret poll weapon

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S campaign team has unveiled a secret weapon in its desperate search to improve the Russian leader's popularity three months before the presidential election.

In a break with the country's political tradition, Naina Yeltsin, the popular but reclusive Russian First Lady, has increased her public engagements and raised her profile in a move that Kremlin image-makers hope could be an important factor in winning votes for her husband.

In the five years since President Yeltsin came to power, his wife, aged 63, a homely grandmother of four, has remained behind the scenes of Russian politics, preferring to keep the family out of the limelight. However, over the past few months Mrs Yeltsin has appeared to be coming out of her shell. Firstly, she began making foreign trips, then she was quoted championing

women's causes and defending the rights of pensioners. Recently Oleg Soskovets, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Yeltsin campaign manager, confirmed that Naina would be playing crucial roles in the re-election drive.

Now hardly a week goes by without Mrs Yeltsin making public appearances. Last month at a festival she took part in a traditional Russian folk dance, ate blinis (pancakes) and chatted with ordinary Muscovites. Last week she was given a rousing welcome when she accompanied her husband to a production of Gogol's *The Government Inspector*.

There is no tradition of wives involving themselves in Russian politics. Larissa Vasilieva, the author of *Kremlin Wives*, a history of the wives of Soviet leaders, said: "But Naina Yeltsin could become a big political asset for the President. She is very natural and very practical. She could help Yeltsin to reconnect with the people. We will be seeing much more of her in the coming weeks."

The involvement of Russian wives in politics can be a two-

edged sword. The 18th century in Russia was dominated by powerful women, notably Catherine the Great, who ruled for 34 years. However, Tsaritsa Alexandra's unpopularity contributed to bringing down the Romanov dynasty.

More recently, wives of the Soviet leaders were excluded from political life, with the exception of Raisa Gorbachev, whose reputation as a meddler in the affairs of state increased the antipathy towards her husband, Mikhail.

Yelena Shestopal, a professor at Moscow State University, said that there was no danger of Naina Yeltsin falling into the same trap because the two women and their families were so different.

"Naina Yeltsin gives the impression of being a domestic and traditional wife," she told the newspaper *Obshchaya Gazeta*. "She is occupied with everyday responsibilities and is charming and modest, which is always highly valued in Russia."

□ Gorbachev succeeds: Mr Gorbachev's backers have gathered the one million signatures needed to put his name on the presidential election ballot. (AP)

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Sparta and Athens bury the hatchet

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

NO LONGER will Athenians and Spartans spear each other on the field of battle. The Peloponnesian War is formally at an end, 24 centuries after it started.

The Mayor of Athens, Dimítris Avramopoulos, and the Mayor of Sparta, Demosthenis Matalas, buried the hatchet in Sparta on Sunday — exactly 2,400 years after Athens surrendered — by signing a 200-word declaration pledging "unbreakable bonds" between the two cities whose rivalry dominated classical Greece.

The climax of that rivalry was the 27-year Peloponnesian War, which marked the start of Athens's decline as a leading Greek power. The historian Xenophon, who recorded the last years of the war, does not mention any treaty.

Nobody gave this a thought until the conservative Sparta city council, as a gesture to a fellow conservative, made Mr Avramopoulos an honorary citizen. Mr Avramopoulos saw the chance to make official something that most Athenians would probably have liked to forget.

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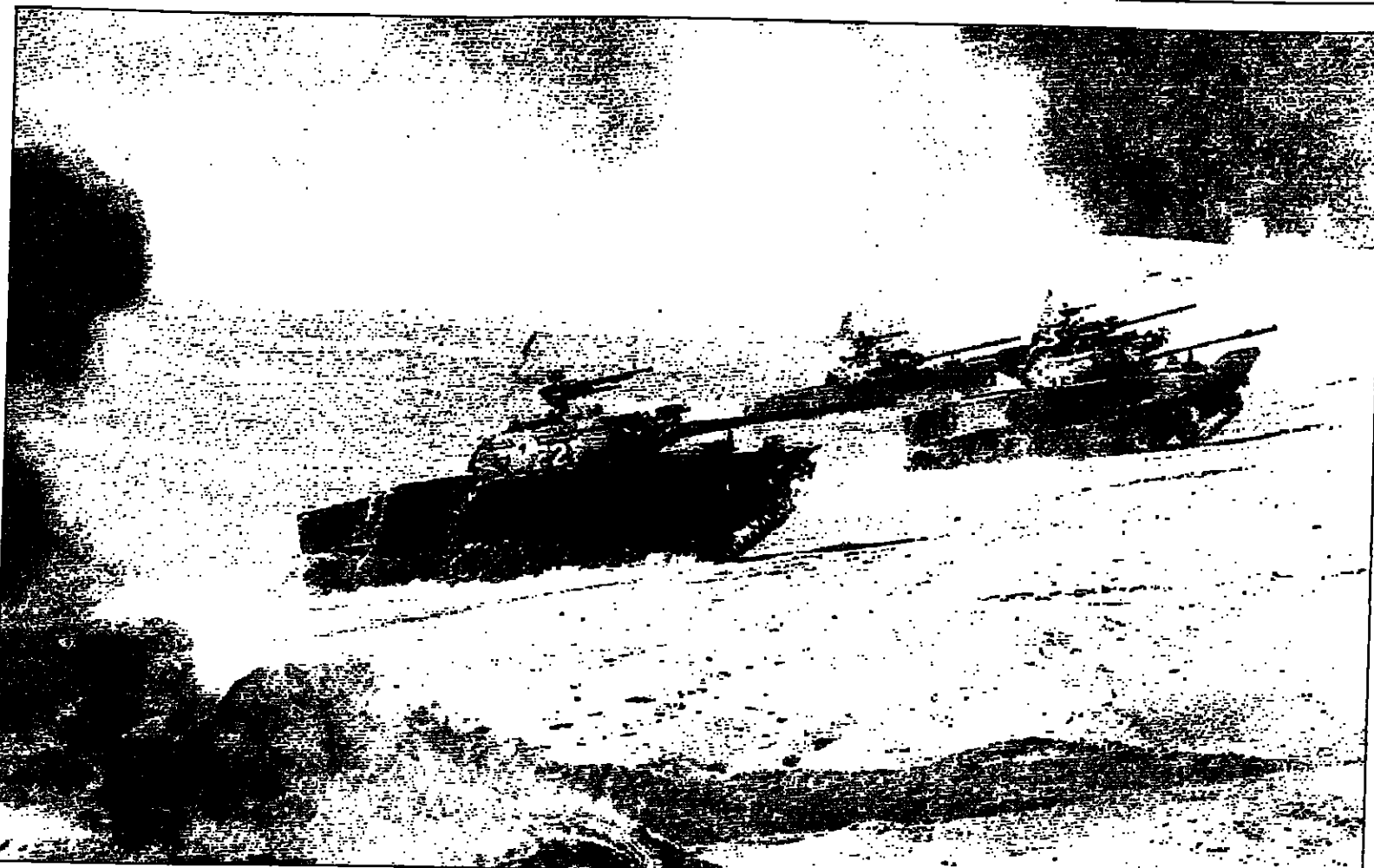
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Peking's hardline generals and politicians see island province as test of fitness to succeed Deng



Chinese amphibious tanks assault a beach on an island off the coast of Fujian province during war games held by the People's Liberation Army

Asia fears eruption of accidental war in Taiwan Strait

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

FOR the People's Liberation Army to get across the Taiwan Strait, establish a beachhead and win seems to many Western experts impossible. Look at Normandy, they say, the years of preparation, and the near thing that invasion was.

But from Peking, where hawkish generals and political leaders contending to look tough enough to succeed Deng Xiaoping see Taiwan as a test of patriotic manhood, an invasion may seem difficult but an ultimate problem only in terms of timing.

The army's battle record looks poor. Huge, backward, inexperienced, although with an annual budget of probably \$13 billion to \$19.7 billion rather than the published \$4.6 billion, it attempted in 1949 an invasion of Quemoy, the Nationalist island just off

the mainland, and was bloodily and decisively repelled. In 1958, the Chinese army showed Quemoy with high-explosives for months, but failed to crack the garrison's resolve. In 1979, Vietnam bloodied the Chinese invaders.

But now, because Peking considers Taiwan to be hurtling towards independence and because this is the time of the hardliners, an invasion must be considered. No matter what the Americans say, they are not ruling out this option as they move their reinforced naval forces nearer to Taiwan. In this hair-trigger atmosphere an accident could detonate more than war games.

Both sides are armed to the teeth, but China has a much bigger set. Its total armed forces amount to three million, Taiwan's to 376,000. China has 6,000 fighter aircraft; Taiwan has 450. China's are poorly maintained and probably no more than a quarter can be airborne at a time. But Taiwan has only ten airfields. If several were destroyed, its aircraft, too, could not remain in the air in large numbers. China has 50 warships; Taiwan has 38. China has 52 submarines; Taiwan has four. China has 24 Su27 Soviet fighters in the pipeline; Taiwan will soon acquire 150 F16s and 60 Mirage 2000s.

In such a rapidly changing balance of forces, China will have to choose its moment carefully. That moment cannot be now. The number of "dedicated" invasion vessels is sufficient to carry only 12,000 to 15,000 mechanised troops and their 400 to 500 tanks. An invasion force needs superiority of at least three-to-one in numbers. There are 30,000 to 40,000 Nationalist soldiers on Quemoy. Conquering even that would be a tall order and

would be regarded by America as a pre-emptive strike, thus hastening a decision in Washington to intervene.

To go for Taiwan, China would have to mobilise a "people's invasion force" of tens of thousands of civilian vessels which would need to be converted for troop-carrying. They could not be assembled secretly and their purpose would have to be disguised in war games.

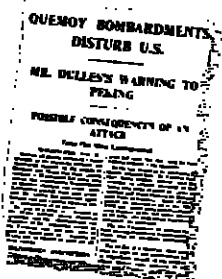
But such an invasion force would require upwards of 750,000 troops, who are not yet ready for such an action. During the next year or two of war games and manoeuvres

China will be practising to co-ordinate and configure its forces for an invasion, tightening command and control and sharpening its newest weapons. If Taiwan pre-emptively attacks what it claims to be a poised invasion force, it would be hard for America

to intervene in what it has agreed by treaty with Peking is one country; in this case that country's civil war. Although that same treaty appears to put Washington under some obligation to Taiwan, how much remains unclear.

Taiwan's task, as in the German defence of Normandy, would be to deter the operation at sea or crush it on the beaches. But if China smashed Taiwan's air bases, its single naval base and its oil reserves in a surprise tactical shock, the island's defensive infrastructure would be mortally wounded. Once the beach-heads were secure, as in Normandy, the inland fighting would be bloody but Taiwan's garrison would lose.

The imponderable, based on Washington's present policy of "creative ambiguity", is whether and in what force America would intervene.



A Times report on an earlier crisis

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Satellite splashes down

A CHINESE spy satellite crashed harmlessly into the sea somewhere between Ascension and the Falkland Islands yesterday, ending fears that it might smash into Britain (Nick Nuttall writes).

The FSW1, launched in 1993, was tracked by military radar in Britain and America

as it ploughed through the atmosphere at 4.05am. A spokesman for the Fylingdales early warning centre in Yorkshire, which tracked the one-tonne capsule, said: "It would have hit the sea minutes later at several hundred miles an hour and would not have survived."

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Defences are strengthened as nervous islanders clamour for passports and dollars

China warns US of 'danger in giving Lee wrong signals'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

AS CHINA yesterday began military exercises in the strait opposite Taiwan with mock bombing runs and at least ten warships, Peking admonished the United States for sending aircraft carriers to the area, saying this could encourage Taiwan's leaders to think that they had American support for independence.

Taiwan has strengthened defences on its offshore islands in case mainland troops attempt to seize one, and there has been a rush of applications for passports. Residents fear that this time Peking's threats must be taken

seriously. Others are moving their money offshore. "I am not afraid," said Wang Chun, 68, a veteran of the civil war in China. He lives in the Pescadores, one of the closest points to the latest exercises. "There are a lot of seagulls around here and I stand a better chance of being hit by one of their missiles than one fired by the Chinese."

The eight-month crisis has turned Taiwan's stock market into a rollercoaster, and its vaunted foreign currency reserves have been drained by a run on dollars.

"Through waves of more and more menacing military moves, China is demonstrating its ability to influence Taiwan's financial markets and the overall economy," said Chen Wen-lang, an economist at the China Trust Bank.

Despite government efforts to prop up the markets, public confidence continues to fall with every Chinese missile test and military exercise.

The exercises are due to last eight days and precede Taiwan's first presidential election on March 23, which Peking says will presage a move towards independence. They follow the launching of at least four Scud-like M9 missiles since last Friday into waters near Taiwan's two largest ports.

The US aircraft carrier USS Independence and escorting vessels were by yesterday sailing about 100 miles east of Taiwan, while a second American naval force, headed by the carrier USS Nimitz and including a submarine, was on its way from the Gulf — the biggest naval buildup in the region since the Vietnam War, according to military sources.

The US vessels would be in what Warren Christopher, American Secretary of State, said was "a position to be helpful" — though he did not specify what kind of help.

Quemoy, less than one and a quarter miles from the mainland, is Taiwan's defensive front line, and local authorities there were prepar-



Taiwanese troops on the western island of Penghu yesterday after Taipei put its forces on a heightened state of alert

ing to raise combat readiness to one level short of imminent war. All soldiers on leave have been recalled and troops were digging new trenches along roadsides. China shelled the island in 1958.

On Taiwan itself, travel agents reported a doubling in people wanting to leave. At the Foreign Ministry, hundreds of people queued to renew or apply for passports. "I want to leave," said Ms Chen Wen-chun, 28, a teacher. "I am afraid they will attack."

In Peking, Shen Guofang, Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a news conference in unusually sharp language: "Let me caution the US side that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people are entirely able to handle their own business."

"What I want to emphasise

here is that the US should be careful about sending a wrong message to the Taiwan authorities that it would support and abet the latter's 'splittist' activities," he added. "If the Taiwan authorities misinterpret that message, real danger would really emerge."

and by upgrading diplomatic ties with Taipei. Such actions had "served to support and abet the Taiwan authorities' separatist activities", and contributed to volatile Sino-US relations.

The spokesman recalled the American Civil War when, he

Mao's forces driving out those of Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan (then Formosa) in 1949.

As tension has mounted, Peking-based correspondents have been denied permission to visit Fujian or Guangdong provinces opposite Taiwan until next month.

President Lee, himself a member of the Nationalist Party which believes in one China (though one ruled by the Nationalists), has said he does not favour independence for Taiwan, as Peking claims, but that reunification depended on democratisation by the Chinese Government.

He reiterated this week that Taipei did not want war with China. But Chiang Chung-ling, Taiwanese Defence Minister, has said Taiwan could fight if Peking's forces violated its territory or its 12-nautical-mile territorial limits.

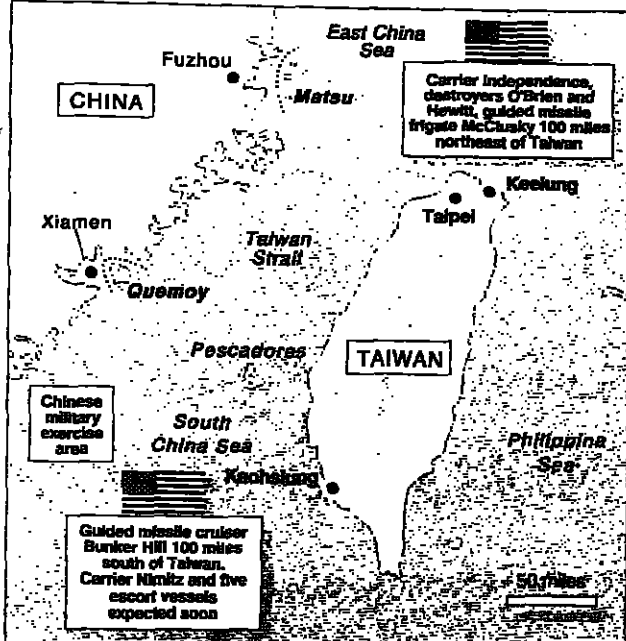
'I stand a better chance of being hit by a missile from one of the seagulls here than one fired by the Chinese'

Mr Shen blamed America for its alleged role in the current tension in the strait. He accused Washington of committing wrongful actions by allowing President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan to visit America last June, by selling advanced weapons to Taiwan,

said, the Americans were opposed to outside interference and stressed territorial integrity and sovereignty.

China's Communists and Nationalists fought their own civil war which, in effect, has never formally ended but only been suspended. It resulted in

formal embrace of Taipei. America, he said, has strong ties to Taiwan and "if necessary, we should protect them". He suggested that the Chinese were testing the wavering foreign policy of the Clinton Administration. An original defence treaty between America and Taiwan was abrogated after President Nixon visited China in 1972 and recognised that Peking, not Taipei, was the Government of a single China.



Chorus grows on Capitol Hill for clear commitment to Taipei

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, yesterday added his voice to those of the top American officials who have condemned Chinese military action in the Taiwan Strait.

The dispatch of two American battle groups to the region was a clear signal, General Shalikashvili

said, that the United States hoped that the situation would return to normal "very soon".

Despite such repeated warnings from military officials, from William Perry, the Secretary of Defence, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and President Clinton, America remains deliberately vague about the depth of its commitment to the defence of Taiwan. This policy of "strategic

ambiguity", explaining that any Chinese attack would be treated as a grave offence while never stipulating what could trigger American intervention, has long been viewed by Democrats and Republicans as the most prudent position to adopt. But recent sabre-rattling by Peking in the year that America holds a presidential election has produced a rising Republican chorus of China critics on Capitol Hill and

outside Washington who are pushing for a more explicit commitment by the Administration.

Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader and front-runner for the presidential nomination, has criticised the White House for a weak approach to Chinese violations of human rights and arms accords. He has sidestepped his usual bipartisan caution over foreign policy and moved towards a more

formal embrace of Taipei. America, he said, has strong ties to Taiwan and "if necessary, we should protect them". He suggested that the Chinese were testing the wavering foreign policy of the Clinton Administration. An original defence treaty between America and Taiwan was abrogated after President Nixon visited China in 1972 and recognised that Peking, not Taipei, was the Government of a single China.

of the "One China" agreement that emphasised the resumption and eventual normalisation of official ties between Washington and Peking during the Nixon and Carter Administrations. An original defence treaty between America and Taiwan was abrogated after President Nixon visited China in 1972 and recognised that Peking, not Taipei, was the Government of a single China.

WORLD SUMMARY

Amnesty attacks Peking

China's economic reforms have made its people richer and given them more freedom, but the Government still systematically persecutes all political opponents, Amnesty International said today.

"Human rights violations continue on a massive scale," the human-rights watchdog said in a new report. "The authorities have demonstrated that they are willing to use any means, whether legal or illegal, to protect the established order." A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said the report was not even worth refutation. (Reuters)

Turkish coalition wins go-ahead

Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, the leader of Turkey's new centre-right coalition Government, won a vote of confidence to end 11 weeks of uncertainty.

The 261-member coalition, made up of Mr Yilmaz's Motherland Party and the True Path party of Tansu Ciller, the former Prime Minister, was formed under pressure from business and military circles to keep an Islamic party from power. (AP)

Three killed in gold mine riot

Jakarta: Fragile calm returned to Irian Jaya after thousands of residents rioted around the American-owned Freeport gold mine, leaving three dead, a church source said. Troops had fought rioters at the local airport and other buildings. Unrest began on Sunday after a road accident involving a resident and a mine employee. (AFP)

A miracle of modern science

Lourdes: The Notre Dame sanctuary at Lourdes, supposedly blessed with healing powers, to which millions of pilgrims flock annually, has gone on the Internet. The World Wide Web address is: <http://lourdes.edi.fr/lourdes>

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Anti-corruption detectives seize top Rome judge

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ONE of Italy's most respected judges became the latest senior victim of the anti-corruption crusade by Milan's "Clean Hands" (*Mani Pulite*) magistrates yesterday.

Renato Squillante, 71, chief examining magistrate in Rome, was arrested on corruption charges in an early-morning raid on his home led by Udo Boccassini, the leading anti-Mafia investigator.

Lawyers defending Judge Squillante said the charges against him related to the alleged payment of bribes, or *tangenti*, in return for favourable or lenient judgments. Some of the alleged incidents took place in the 1980s. The network of bribery uncovered by the Milan magistrates, beginning in 1992, became known as *tangentopoli*, embracing more than 3,000 businessmen and officials involved in corruption over the past decade.

The fact that Judge Boccassini led the team making the arrest suggests a link with her campaign against organised crime. Judge Boccassini, 46, has built a reputation as a fearless crusader against the Mafia and was instrumental in tracking down the killers of Judge Giovanni Falcone, blown up by Cosa Nostra in 1992.

The move against Judge Squillante may also be intended to counteract a public mood of slight weariness with the "Clean Hands" campaign and the perception that it has lost momentum.

The police said that Judge Squillante's arrest came after an investigation involving the bugging of a bar near the law courts frequented by members of the judiciary. The owner of the bar said yesterday that the bugging device had been hidden in an ashtray.

Judge Squillante's arrest sent shock waves through a legal profession used to repeated disclosures of high-level corruption. The judge at

one time headed the body that monitors ethical standards at the Rome stock exchange.

The arrest came as police were savouring their triumph in breaking up a drug-trafficking ring with Mafia connections in Rome and Naples. Nearly 200 people were rounded up on Monday, 40 of them in Rome, including Fabiola Moretti, a witness in the trial of Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister accused of involvement in the Mafia murder of Minio Pecorelli, a journalist.

In Naples, those arrested included several prison staff and policemen accused of acting as bodyguards for imprisoned Mafia and Camorra members. One Camorra boss, Pietro Cozzolino, allegedly had lived a *dolce vita* life in prison, able to use mobile telephones to continue directing drug trafficking and gun-running.

Mezzacorona Di Maggio, a Mafia turncoat, told magistrates in this northern Italian city yesterday that he refused to give evidence at the murder trial of suspects linked to the killing of Judge Falcone because he feared for his safety. He added that he would be prepared to give evidence elsewhere and on videotape. (AFP)



Squillante: investigation involved bugging a bar



Winnie Mandela creates a new image, swapping her old African dress, left, for a business suit; friendly handshakes replace the black power salute

Queen of controversy launches charm offensive

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA, displaying a new hairdo, wardrobe and attitude, has bounced back into the limelight in an unfamiliar role: the model politician. After a lengthy period in the wings, South Africa's queen of controversy has returned centre stage, making peace with her enemies and

talking loftily of standards in political conduct. Witnesses have reported how two weeks ago Tony Leon, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, and perhaps her staunchest critic, choked on his lunch when she approached his table in the parliamentary dining room and said sweetly that she had decided to be friendly to all.

Complementing her new-found moderation, the flamboyant West

African dresses have been discarded for business suits and a briefcase. Her poodle-style hairdo may raise smiles, but she is determined to be taken seriously. The image overhaul comes amid signs of a thaw in her political isolation nearly a year after the former deputy minister was sacked by President Mandela for misconduct. Along with two other populist MPs, she was this week given the important task of

mobilising support for the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal in the run-up to May's local government elections. One South African newspaper, whose reporters were once singled out by Mrs Mandela for condemnation, have hailed "the new and improved Winnie". But it is the divorce hearings with her husband, which begin next week, that are seen as the yardstick for her supposed change of heart.

González in no hurry to quit stage

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

POLITICAL deadlock gripped the Spanish Government yesterday after Felipe González, the defeated Socialist Prime Minister, refused to discuss the transition of power with his conservative successor.

José María Aznar, the Popular Party leader who is trying to form a majority government, was cold-shouldered by Señor González, the caretaker Prime Minister, who was in no hurry to abandon the trappings of office.

Both appeared to agree on the key issues facing the country — European policy, the economic situation, re-

gional demands, the welfare state and terrorism — as Señor Aznar started his first round of talks with Spain's political leaders in his search for allies. But, after their 90-minute meeting at the Moncloa Palace, the Prime Minister's official residence, it emerged that for Señor Aznar the prize seemed so near, yet so far.

One of the leaders spoke clearly and confidently, appearing to have a complete grasp of the situation, while the other waffled and fudged answers, failing to spell out his game plan. Unfortunately for the electorate, the former

was Señor González and the latter was Señor Aznar.

"We do not have any hurry in this transition period because we believe that the negotiations are relatively complex and difficult. But we do not believe they will take too long," said Señor González, licking his lips over the humiliating predicament of his rival, who had demanded his resignation in the parliament almost weekly as government scandals multiplied during the last legislature.

Señor González said his party would still vote against Señor Aznar at his investiture.

This should take place within a month. With the Communist-led United Left party proposing to do the same, Señor Aznar needs the support of the Catalan and Basque nationalists to be appointed and to govern.

The conservative leader claimed that his talks with the regional nationalists were going on at "a good rhythm". However, he admitted that all the parties would have to drop part of their electoral programmes if a compromise was to be reached.

Leading article, page 19

Nigeria runs sanction risk

London: Nigeria could face calls for an oil embargo, the freezing of assets and banning of all new investment if General Sani Abacha, its military leader, refuses to meet a Commonwealth group in the next few weeks (Michael Binyon writes).

The 53-nation group was set up at the Commonwealth summit in November to persuade Nigeria to return to democracy.

Punitive measures are already being considered by the Clinton Administration, which has circulated proposals to force General Abacha to move towards democracy.

Violence flares again in drive for Corsican independence

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALMOST a quarter of French voters believe Corsica should be granted independence, according to a poll published this week after a fresh wave of terrorist violence in which three people were killed and the Paris home of an investigative reporter was sprayed with gunfire.

The survey, published in *Le Parisien*, found that just 61 per cent of French people thought the Mediterranean island and birthplace of Napoleon should remain French, while 24 per

cent said it should be granted full independence.

Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, has tried to launch a peace process in Corsica by opening talks with nationalists. "The other path would lead to a deadlock of violence and hatred," M Debré said yesterday.

In the past year separatist violence has claimed 40 lives. Last Friday, for the first time in the 20-year conflict, the violence spread to the mainland when the home of Guy

Benhamou, a journalist for *Libération* and an expert on Corsican affairs, was peppered with machinegun fire. M Benhamou was away but police said the incident was intended as a warning.

The journalist had recently written about alleged government talks with the "historic wing" of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front, the most violent of the separatist groups. The Government denies the talks are going on.

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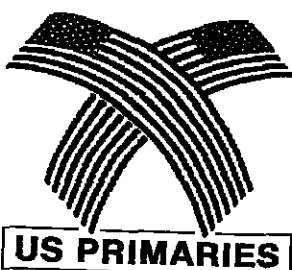
Health fears fail to halt Dole's march to victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

EVEN before polling was over, Robert Dole yesterday confidently predicted a clean sweep of the seven "Super Tuesday" primaries. But the private fear of many Republicans as he drives inexorably onwards to their party's nomination is that he may not be strong enough physically to survive the immense task ahead of him.

Mr Dole is at present full of energy and in remarkably good health for a 72-year-old but, as if a year of non-stop campaigning were not grueling enough, he is still leading the Senate. Were he to defeat President Clinton in November, he would be the oldest American to take on what is unquestionably one of the world's most demanding jobs.

Mr Dole spent 39 months fighting for his life after being seriously wounded in the Sec-



US PRIMARIES

ond World War. As a result of his injuries, his right arm is paralysed and atrophied and his left is partially crippled. He has only one kidney and his prostate gland was removed in 1991 because of cancer. In addition he takes at least five medicines to control several problems, including a high cholesterol level.

He looks younger than his years, partly because he dyes his hair and sports a near-permanent tan from sitting on

the balcony of his Senate office. Exit polls have nonetheless shown that almost a third of this year's Republican primary voters are concerned about his age. This is a factor that Mr Clinton, a relative spring chicken at 49, can be relied on fully to exploit during the eight months leading up to the election.

Acutely conscious of the problem, Mr Dole has promised to select a running-mate "ready to take over on day one if necessary". He has allowed himself to be photographed working out on the treadmill in his Watergate flat, and has authorised his doctors to release and freely discuss his medical records.

These reveal that he enjoys lower blood pressure, a lower weight and better cholesterol levels than Mr Clinton, a notorious trencherman. Mr Dole often jokes that he is "not going to make health an issue in the campaign". Dr Charles Peck of Washington's Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, said Mr Dole was "really in excellent health, with excellent cardiovascular stamina, and his mental capacity is, of course, excellent".

What would happen if Mr Dole's health did fail him between now and November is a subject that neither the American media nor any Republican official has publicly discussed, but the party would obviously be thrown into turmoil and the pressure on Colin Powell, the highly popular retired general, to rescue it would be immense.

Mr Dole's age has helped him during the primaries, winning him big majorities



Robert Dole reveals his weariness as he campaigns for the Republican nomination

among older voters, but a Washington Post poll yesterday showed that voters over 60 backed Mr Clinton against Mr Dole by 62 per cent to 34. This is partly because the elderly are aware of the limitations of age, and partly because Mr Clinton has strongly resisted Republican efforts to cut the Medicare health insurance programme for the elderly.

The same poll showed Mr Clinton leading Mr Dole by 56 per cent to 39 among all voters, while another poll, for USA Today, showed the President ahead of the senator by 12 points. After a primary season in which Mr Dole has veered sharply to the political right, the Post poll showed political moderates backing Mr Clinton by nearly two to one. Just a third of respondents were enthusiastic about Mr Dole, compared with 45 per cent

who said they supported Mr Clinton. □ Vote threat: Washington, the free world's capital, may be forced to cancel its presidential primaries this spring for lack of funds. Election officials have complained to the near-bankrupt city council that they have insufficient money to conduct May's primaries as well as November's presidential election and various local elections.

T-shirts herald terror summit at 'Snoopy Club'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SHARM EL SHEIKH

HUNDREDS of scantily-clad tourists wearing "Stop Terrorism" T-shirts mingled with sweating secret servicemen from about 30 nations as world leaders began arriving in this balmy but ill-equipped Red Sea resort for today's four-hour "anti-terrorism" summit — an event dismissed by one French reporter as "Alice in Wonderland at the seaside".

So scarce were hotel rooms for the 1,500 journalists expected at this southernmost tip of the Sinai peninsula that Uri Dromi, chief of Israel's Government Press Office, advised a chartered plane-load of reporters from Tel Aviv to take their own sleeping bags.

The T-shirts, one with a large shark depicting the terrorists, sold at a £1 discount to conference delegates. They summed up the media-orientated nature of the event. Three Arab leaders have claimed the credit for suggesting it to President Clinton, whose sea-front villa was patrolled by 11 rubber launches filled with heavily-armed frogmen.

"I seriously wish them well, but how can they think that a few hours and a lunch in the sunshine is going to stop the bombs going off?" asked Tom Gutteridge, a retired sales director from Essex. He was one of thousands of holiday-makers obliged to move rooms or take an all-expenses paid two-day junkie to Luxor to clear space for the delegates.

Mr Gutteridge stared up at one of a stream of private jets carrying leaders including Presidents Yeltsin and Chirac, John Major and King Hussein of Jordan and Hassan of Morocco, to the small desert airport.

"Whatever they tell us at the end, we all know this is a

glorified public relations exercise," he added. The Egyptians erected large notices proclaiming the meeting in the converted restaurant of the Swiss-managed Movenpick Beach Hotel as "The Summit of the Peacemakers".

They were anxious after criticism in the Arab world that the hastily-convened summit had been primarily staged for the benefit of Israel after its battering at the hands of Iranian-inspired Islamic suicide bombers.

As hundreds of Egyptian labourers hurried to finish preparations, a number of

Foreigners write letter of protest

Jerusalem: More than 50 foreigners, including Britons, have written to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, protesting that they cannot leave the Gaza Strip because of the closure of the area after the recent suicide bombings (Ross Dunn writes).

unfortunate mistakes were ironed out, including one misspelling over the conference table not far from where Mr Yeltsin was due to be seated. It described the meeting as "the summit of the peacemakers".

To myself and other correspondents who had earlier driven past the sites of the two recent Jerusalem bus bombings, it was hard to reconcile the reality of the Hamas war against the Jews with the bougainvillea-clad walls of the conference hotel; or the main meeting room with the notice outside advertising "Snoopy Club" games for under-10s.

Bush opposes easing of sanctions on Iraq

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

GEORGE BUSH, the former American President, yesterday urged the world not to ease sanctions against Iraq until Baghdad accounted for more than 600 Kuwaiti prisoners taken to Iraq after the invasion in 1990.

Speaking on the first day of an international conference in London, Mr Bush told veterans of the Gulf War, politicians and human rights campaigners that he had no regrets about not going all the way to Baghdad. He said that

if the allies had occupied it, the war coalition would have fallen apart "and we would have handed Saddam a victory out of the jaws of a humiliating defeat".

Mr Bush replied to critics who noted that President Saddam Hussein was still in office while he and Baroness Thatcher, who will speak at the concluding luncheon today, were not. "Hell no, I'm not glad he's still there. But that was not an objective of the coalition."

Sliced shot lands a novice golfer with \$3m lawsuit

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A NEW YORK court is to decide if an amateur golfer was negligent when he sliced a shot. The ball went flying in the direction of the clubhouse terrace and knocked unconscious a non-golfer blithely surveying the view.

James Henn, 29, a Wall Street bond trader, fell to the floor when the ball struck him on the bridge of his nose. "The ball hit him right between the eyes and knocks him out," his lawyer, Alan Schnurman, told a preliminary hearing. It was a potentially fatal blow, claimed Mr Schnurman, whose client is seeking \$3 million (£2 million) in compensation.

Mr Henn had been sipping a drink on the verandah of the Rockaway Hunting Club on Long Island, enjoying the warmth of a July day. Twenty yards away, on the edge of the 18th hole, 32-handicap golfer Alan Greco was struggling to find his form at the end of a testing round on which he had repeatedly mistimed his shots. The fateful chip shot went

similarly awry. Justice Beverly Cohen ruled that there may be a case to answer in court because Mr Greco, 33, did not shout "fore!" — the customary air raid warning of golfers — until after he struck the ball. The case is scheduled to start in the Manhattan Supreme Court on Monday.

The plaintiff and defendant are colleagues in the municipal bond department at Lehman Brothers, a prominent Wall Street finance house. The incident occurred on a company golf day, but Mr Henn opted for the role of spectator because he is not keen on golf.

Mr Greco's lawyer, Charles Borsetti, will argue that the sliced shot is an unavoidable, even celebrated, feature of the game. "Errant golf shots are not negligent," he said.

The case is likely to see lawyers wielding three-irons in the courtroom, and there will be reference to the laws and customs of the sport.

It is not known if Justice Cohen is herself a golfer.



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Alan Coren



I trust my heirs will be careful with my life and letters

Just to the left of where I sit tapping this out, there is a sturdy shelf with my life on it. It has to be sturdy, because my life is contained in ten big box files each containing, give or take, a thousand pages. These are my letters; and what, of course, concerns me today is the kind of man my son might be playing tennis with after I am dead.

It concerns me because Martin Amis plays tennis with Zachary Leader, a Roehampton academic, and it is to Mr Leader that Martin has entrusted the editorship of his father Kingsley's letters, thereby upsetting Eric Jacobs, Kingsley's drinking companion, who had been led to believe that he was going to be doing the editing. The snag is that he had been led to believe this by Kingsley, who, not being an executor of his estate, was in no position to lead anyone to believe anything, a situation enabling Martin, who is an executor, to prefer his chum to his father's.

Now, it is clearly important who edits post-humous letters, since the selection will determine our perception of the man who wrote them; and, dipping into the big box files, I see that this is far more clearly important in my case than in Kingsley's. For while his letters were sent to top literary bananas like Anthony Powell and Philip Larkin and Evelyn Waugh and — packed with the sort of stuff one expects when like speaks to like and known speaks to known — will doubtless present a consistency of style, attitude, taste, and above all personality, mine do not present anything of the kind. That is because mine were not written to anybody I know. I never write personal letters. When someone phones me, I call for it: I pick up a phone. What the big box files contain, therefore, is impersonal stuff that could be expressed only in writing. It is exclusively commercial. That is why I kept copies.

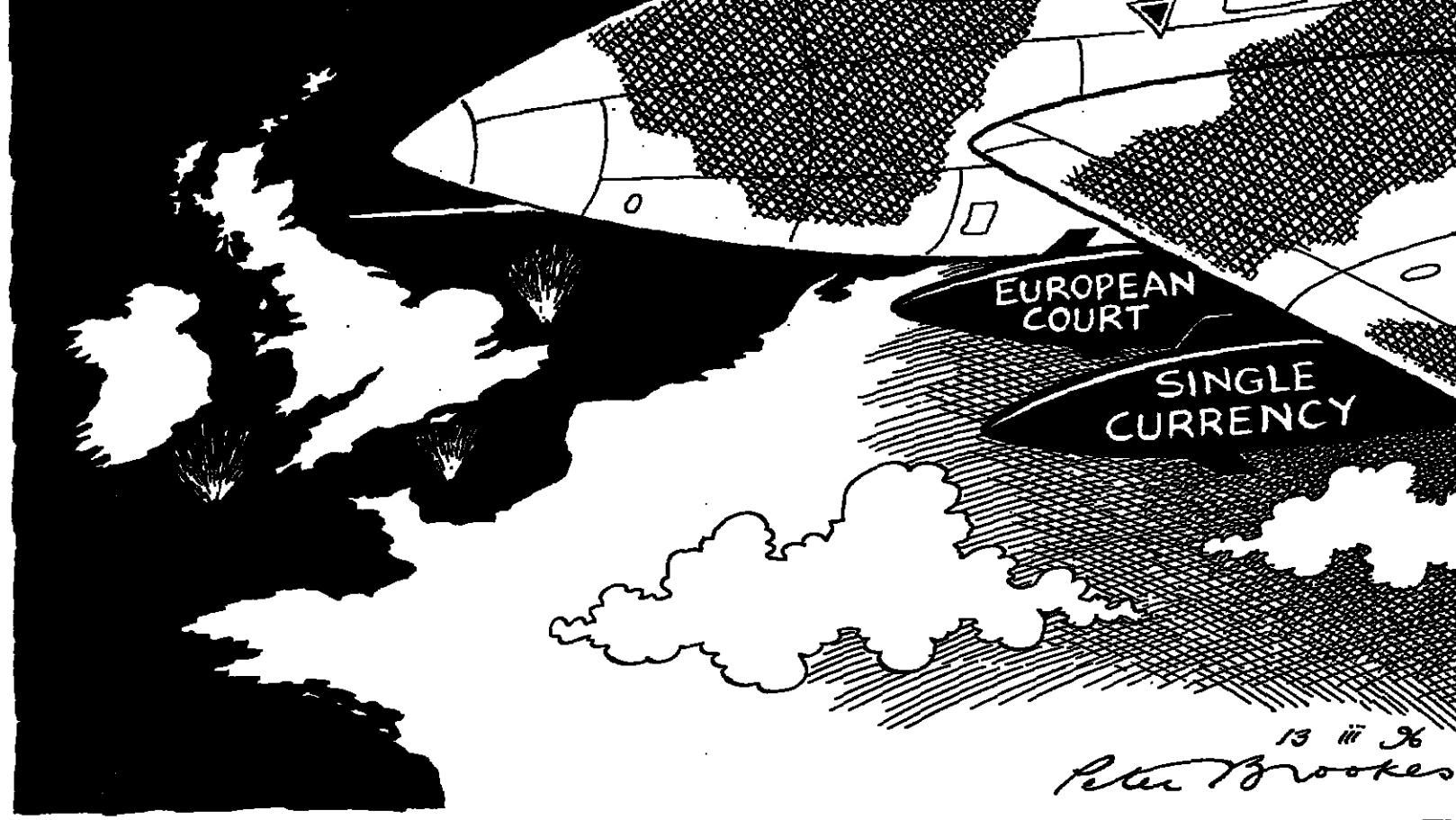
It is also why its editing is so terribly important. Because, on dipping into it, I find that I consist of unrepentant different people. Take the long and riveting 1973 correspondence with Granada TV Rental about their inability to sort out a screen inhabited solely by blue flat-headed midgets: this fine epistolary sequence begins in ironic bewilderment, moves on to anger, becomes incensed, then grows chilling with threat, the work of an influential and well-connected bastard whose editors beg for consumer scams, whose lawyers yearn for easy bribes, whose close friends on the Granada Board are coming to dinner that very night.

Now set this against the famous 1977 exchange with Lex Volvo over the fact that, despite six visits to their body shop, the tailgate of my estate still flies open on a whim; this shows a very different man, more hurt than angry, caring, distraught, fearful that, at sudden braking, his children will end up whirling in the welkin above the M1 like Tiepolo cherubs, a decent, gentle man unable to believe that his love of Sweden and his deep admiration, as a lifelong socialist, of its reputation for humanitarian concern could so unthinkingly be put at irreparable risk.

Yet how different both these writers seem to be from the wheedling supplicant of the brilliantly inventive Overdraft Letters (1968-85, *passim*), in which a figure emerges of not only great humility but also extraordinary financial probity and wisdom — one who would, I fear, be unrecognisable to the same period's Inland Revenue recipients, confronted by a fiscally incompetent bohemian unable to understand the first thing about where money comes from or where it goes, and is thus constitutionally unable to keep accurate records, whatever those are.

And can either of these be the man whose passionate correspondence with Barnett Council down the long arches of the years addresses everything from wonky pavements and duff binmen to underfunded libraries and sandpit dogs? True, that man is also variously angry, caring, threatening, humble, wise, influential, and the rest, but above all he is — it shines through every sentence — a political idealist pledged to that right to vote which put Barnett Council where it is today. The problem for those reading his letters is how to reconcile the lifelong Conservative this makes him with the lifelong socialist who finally persuaded Volvo to fit a new tailgate. Which is why, when I am mortally uncoiled, I need a smart editor. Not just anyone for tennis.

Mainland targets island nation in manoeuvres...



All bad Europeans now

The White Paper shows that with Brussels in full retreat, scepticism is now ascendant

Next year the Brussels Commission should raise a trembling glass on the 900th anniversary of the rise to power of Pope Innocent III. Scourge of the Cathars, patron of the Inquisition, instigator of the Fourth Crusade and bully of the German princelings, Innocent was the first true Eurocrat. He claimed the right to approve local monarchs. He levied Euro-taxes, and banned trial by ordeal in favour of high-tech torture. His writ ran to every parish in Christendom. Such was his secular authority that King John appealed to him to annul the Magna Carta.

Innocent III would regard Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, as a wimp. Where are Santer's pennants on the turrets of Sarajevo? Where is his veto on the Queen's civil list? Who needs a Euro-currency, when all would welcome a papal ducat? Didn't the Fourth Lateran declare subsidiarity a heresy? This Luxembourg mouse should burn the sceptics at the stake.

Euro-machismo is now in full retreat. Ten years ago no diplomat would have dared to write yesterday's White Paper. Whole passages seem to have been lifted from Lady Thatcher's Bruges speech. A British Europe, says the new Toryism, is "a union of nations co-operating freely under treaties freely entered into". It "respects cultural and political diversity... concentrates single-mindedly only on what needs to be done at a European level... does not interfere where it is not needed... and is outward-looking, free-trading, democratic and flexible".

The White Paper is a paragon of self-interest. It insists that common decision-making "can only be justified where it brings benefits to British security, prosperity and quality of life which are so significant that they justify some loss of unfettered national control in the area concerned". Supranational action is valid only where action in defence of trade is not open to states individually. This might be the language of the Single European Act: it is not the spirit of Maastricht.

Time was when such thoughts were heretical. Governments might come and go, but union through federation was the one true faith. Opposition from Lady Thatcher, Danish sceptics or French chauvinists was mere diversion. A united states of Europe was the natural extension of a free-trade area, then of economic union, then of political union, then of history itself. After centuries of

turmoil, Europe's postwar patriarchs had found the philosopher's stone.

I imagine there are still people who believe this, though most of them are paid to do so. On Monday Mr Santer tried gamely to win for his Commissioners the power to subsidise anything they liked under the guise of "alleviating unemployment". A robust Council of Ministers said no. Mr Santer reportedly went off in a huff. Maastricht sceptics used to shelter behind Mr Major's skirts at ministerial meetings, hoping Britain would always take the blame for stopping the wilder Eurocratic lunacies. With the impending collapse of monetary union, sceptics across the Continent are coming into the open. Anti-Europeanism featured in recent German, French and Spanish elections.

The British electorate used to greet any emanations from Brussels or the Council of Ministers as a necessary evil. Polls showed a public accepting European free trade and its political disciplines as sound and progressive. The British would not withdraw from European institutions or renounce the treaties. On the other hand, they appeared to reject what is termed the Maastricht process, of wider powers for Brussels and its puppet European Parliament and of extended majority voting by the Council of Ministers.

The British, in other words, did not want to be thought bad sports. They disliked the hijacking of the liberal ideals of the old Common Market by Franco-German corporatism. They detested the morass of subsidy, corruption and intervention, not least when other states were less fastidious about the rule of administrative law. Nothing has done the European cause more damage than Brussels' double standard towards Britain in the enforcement of regulations — unless it is yesterday's cynical court ruling on the "health and safety" edict on working hours.

British governments must thus sustain a delicate equilibrium. They must

be recalcitrant and bloody-minded. They must block and protest and howl with pain, especially over anything to do with fish. They may demand police action to get British lamb to French markets, but they must pass protectionist laws such as the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act aimed at excluding Spanish trawlers (which the European Court of Justice was surely right to outlaw). But eventually they must sign.

Wilson signed. Thatcher signed. Major signed. In opposition, these leaders were all sceptics, but in power they signed. They saw that whatever took place in the theatre of European politics

was part of a worthwhile endeavour, re-fashioning the security of post-war Europe. This endeavour is not yet complete. However much Britain's leaders might believe that "outside Europe" Britain could not only survive but prosper, withdrawal was a

gamble neither they nor the electorate were ready to take. The offshore island gibe hurt. If the British withdrew and, for whatever reason, Europe fell once more to fracture, Britain could never look history in the face.

The institutions of the old Common Market — like an ailing magazine, constantly renamed and relaunched — have arrived at a familiar turning-point in the evolution of empires. They must either move on to autonomy and eventual collapse, or they must swiftly dismantle into their subsidiary components. Witness to the former are the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman and Soviet empires. In each case the prime motive of autonomy was bureaucratic rather than imperial. Witness to the latter is the British Empire. Its supranationalism is now represented by no more than the Queen as head of the Commonwealth.

The European movement in the 1980s toyed with going down the Austro-Hungarian path. Under the spiritual leadership of Jacques Delors it reckless-

ly cavorted with federal imperialism. The moment has passed. A legacy of the Allied victory in 1945 was the democratic vigour of Europe's nation-states, a vigour reinforced by the fall of the Soviet Union. M Delors failed to crush the identity of member states. Under his influence, to adapt Gibbon, the European Commission passed from expansionism to decay without even the briefest moment of sovereign exhilaration.

It now seems incredible that democratic freedoms won against Hitler and the Soviet Union would ever be sacrificed to the grim commissioners of Brussels. The Council of Ministers, not the Commission, was bound sooner or later to become the focus of Europe's power-brokers. Yet such distrust has developed towards even the Council that each country has insisted on that vote of no confidence in representative democracy, a "referendum on Europe". Britain is one of the last to do so. There are sound arguments against plebiscitary government. There are few against consultative referendums. How a manifestly sceptical Tory party has allowed itself to be outflanked on this by Sir James Goldsmith is a mystery — a mystery wrapped in the enigma of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

No subject in modern times has caused British governments more tribulation than Europe. The reason is the distorting polarisation of British politics. This has decreed that there must be a row. Europe must be said to "hear the country apart" or "split the Tory party". There must be screaming and name-calling, "bastards" and "men in white coats". There must be Little Englanders and Sellers of Sovereignty Down the River. Europe devastated the last years of the Thatcher administration, for reasons now hard to recall. It has done the same for Mr Major.

The essence of the row remains elusive. Few politicians want to leave the European Union, just as few want to cede more power to Brussels or the Council of Ministers. The number of paid-up Euro-fanatics and Euro-withdrawers on both back benches can be numbered on two hands. Nothing here really divides Mr Major and Tony Blair. As for the electorate, it places Europe far down the list of crucial issues. It is bored by Europe. Like the Government in this White Paper, the British public is emotionally and politically sceptical, but not very. All Mr Major need do is behave like a bad European, but do it well.

Divorced from his own party

Ralph Harris on how Lord Mackay fell among activists

Why has Lord Mackay of Clashfern allowed his name to be so uniquely linked with the Family Law Bill, which many loyal Tory supporters see as further weakening the defences against the rising tide of divorce? The Bill, which passed the Lords on Monday against the votes of some 60 Conservative peers, goes to the Commons next month mutilated by a Lords amendment on pension-splitting, and with Tory backbenchers threatening to join the rebels in the Lords.

Even such a non-political Lord Chancellor must feel a twinge of regret that he had to rely on Labour and Liberal Democrat votes to fight off Lady Young's amendment to extend the cooling-off period from 12 to 18 months. She is supported by such heavyweights as Lord Simon of Glaisdale (a former President of the Divorce Division of the High Court), the Anglican Archbishop of York and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster. No one questions his probity. But does he have no doubts behind that dour mask of inflexibility?

After much pondering, I have decided Lord Mackay is a good, if stubborn man, fallen among legal activists. Why have we got this Bill now? There was little public demand for it. There was certainly no political case for courting fresh Tory divisions with a Bill that can be fairly summarised as "divorce on demand after a year". No, its inspiration came from the mysterious processes of a little-known body: the Law Commission.

Its main author appears to have been commissioner Brenda Hoggart, famous for saying, in 1980: "We have already reached a point at which we should be considering whether the legal institution of marriage continues to serve any useful purpose." A dozen years later, she bore witness to her intellectual confusion by first terminating a 24-year marriage and then solemnly contracting another before becoming a High Court Judge — under her maiden name as the Hon Mrs Justice Hale — in the family law division.

No one doubts that Lord Mackay's protestations of personal belief in marriage come from the heart. It is not his heart that critics doubt, any more than his ready grasp of legal technicalities. What is in question is the reasoning he shares with many bishops and other elevated personages concerning common sense and psychology, which will judge this Bill soft on those we must no longer call the "guilty" party. Of course, divorce may still be painful. But extensive research confirms that it is the offspring of broken marriages who stand to suffer most — in above average ill-health, retarded education, unemployment, delinquency and homelessness.

As the Lord Chancellor repeatedly intones, legislation cannot make couples stay together. But a key role of public law is surely to proclaim acceptable standards of conduct, whether in honesty, fair dealing, tolerance or — dare I say? — fidelity. If the law is to punish wrongdoing, does it not have to specify, or at least imply, what is regarded as right conduct?

Yet by extinguishing all reference to matrimonial "fault", does not the trumpet give forth an uncertain sound? Once this Bill is law, adultery or desertion will no longer be grounds for a divorce petition. Instead, the sole justification for abandoning the most solemn of all vows is a statement that the marriage has "irretrievably" broken down. Upon such a subjective view by one party, unsupported by solid reason or evidence, the wedding contract can be torn up, and a year later the wife or husband put away.

The only gleam of hope among the dismal statistics of soaring divorce rates is the evidence that both here and in America around 50 per cent of ex-husbands and 25 per cent of ex-wives later regret their divorces. This suggests that "irretrievable breakdown" may often prove to have been no more than the question-begging parrot-cry of temporarily disaffected spouses. What does the general public think about divorce on demand by one party without the need to give a reason? When the poll commissioned by the Lord Chancellor put that precise question, 60 per cent of the public singled it out as the least acceptable of nine possible options. Presented with the same list and asked which options were most acceptable as grounds for divorce, 59 per cent chose adultery, intolerable behaviour or two years' separation — the very three "grounds" in the present law which are to be wiped from the statute book.

If only the Lord Chancellor had heeded the disenchantment of Ruth Deech (now Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford) who was at the Law Commission when the Divorce Act of 1969 was being drafted up. Almost 30 years later, she wrote: "It is now clear that the work of the reformers in the 1960s was flawed. Their reliance on selected statistics and the works of social science led to wholly inaccurate predictions about the effects of the Divorce Reform Act 1969." The truth is that since the legal activists voiced their subversive doubts about the "legal institution of marriage", the many chickens of their earlier handiwork have come home to roost. In the Lords' debates, leaving aside what I might call the gay divorcees' lobby, defenders of Lord Mackay's Bill join in regretting family break-up and go on to say, like the former Archbishop of York, Lord Habgood, that divorce is caused by economic, social and cultural pressures. But so is much of the youth crime that haunts us. Is it not defeatist, above all for a Lord Chancellor, to conclude that law is powerless to do much about it?

Drink up

THE DRINK has caught up with Melvyn Bragg. I spotted him toting the other day in a West End restaurant despite a solemn pledge not to touch a drop for the first three months of the year. He blames Albert Finney.

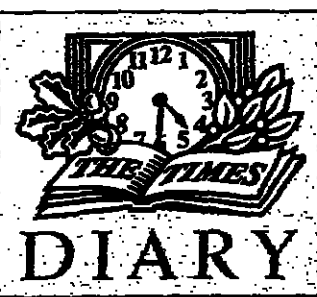
After a seriously liquid lunch before Christmas, Bragg and his lunching chum Matthew Evans, the chairman of Faber, agreed that they should forgo alcohol for the whole of January, February and March. Everything went swim-

mingly at first, with both Bragg and Evans wearing the impossibly sanctimonious air of teetotallers. Then, says Bragg, he started making a *South Bank Show* about Albert Finney.

"As part of the programme, we wanted to film Finney having lunch," says Bragg, "but he said there wasn't any point unless I partook of a few glasses of wine. So reluctantly I agreed to start drinking again for the sake of work. I fell at the Finney Fence."



Bragg and Finney: lunch needs lubricating



Despite his sobriety, Bragg is indulging in a sort of victory dance, and piously plans to stay the course until April 4. "By then I shall be ready to make up for lost time," he gasps.

Government legislation on the management of deer in the Highlands has upset some of the Lords. One peer asked to speak on the Deer Bill refused, stating that he did not deem Sir Denis Thatcher's personal correspondence a matter for public discussion.

For courses

YOU'D IMAGINE he would have outgrown food-fights, but Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber had been lobbying custard pies in the run-up to Cheltenham, the National Hunt Festival which came under starters orders yesterday.

His target was the racecourse caterer, Letheby & Christopher, an outfit which recently produced a lunch that he described in a newspaper as a "horror", with roast potatoes that were the nastiest thing he remembers eating.

Letheby's chief executive Tony Roestenburg is "saddened" by the continuing criticism, and has invited the composer to join him at Ascot where he provides the same potatoes. Not on your life, replied Lloyd Webber. "If I asked every critic who'd written a bad review of one of my shows to meet me, I'd never have the time to go racing."

College spats

WITH ALL the fracas at Balliol College, Oxford, over a university chair funded by Gerr-Rudolph Flick, the grandson of a convicted Nazi war criminal, the authorities have been quick to crack down over another unseemly incident involving the college.

It has banned the Annandale Society, an all-male Balliol drinking club, from convening after its members emptied the contents of a skip into the gardens of Trinity, the neighbouring college. The lead between the two colleges goes back a long way. Trinity once released a pig into Balliol hall; Balliol, in return, projected the words "Bloody Trinity" on to

the college tower. But I understand that the Dean of Balliol found the skip a step too far, although a Balliol girl I spoke to was full of fight: "It's still war," she muttered darkly.

Impish

JARVIS COCKER, the androgynous crooner who popped up uninvited on stage with Michael Jackson, has been up to further wheezes. The talk of his circle yesterday was that the amusing lead singer of Pulp, proud owner of a Hillman Imp, entered "telesales"



"Look, dear, another Jackson Pollock"

as his occupation on his car insurance form. As luck would have it, an insurance rep had seen him singing on television the night before — and changed it to pop star.

Yesterday a spokesman for Cocker said that the singer was unavailable, so she could not vouch for the tale's veracity. "But it is the sort of thing he would do."

Courting

THE RUSSIANS are turning to real tennis, the sport favoured by Prince Edward and his girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones. With the help of Russian diplomats, academics and a Russian prince or two, there are plans to restore the real tennis court built by Catherine the Great in St Petersburg.

Professor Borilkevich, the strapping head of physical education and sport at the University of St Petersburg, is the driving force behind the restoration of the court, built in the 1790s and now being used as a gymnasium. Along with Andrew Page, a keen real tennis player and one of our chaps in Kiev, he is drumming up support.

The Russian aristocrat Prince Nicholas Galitzine is delighted. "I would like to play the inaugural match on it with Prince Edward," he says.

P.H.S



RIFKIND'S EUROPE

A quiet reception for a quiet strengthening of policy

Yesterday's publication of a White Paper on the EU's renegotiation of the Maastricht Treaty is a symptom of wider change which has reshaped European politics during the past few years. Questions of European integration are no longer the preserve of a few: to negotiate effectively inside the EU, ministers must be backed by voters' trust. At the risk of reducing their room for manoeuvre, governments must say where they stand. Malcolm Rifkind's White Paper, which bears strongly the marks of his personal authorship, will not satisfy every Conservative critic or speedily convert Continental capitals to the British viewpoint or save the Government from dark days in the Commons. But it contains a clear-headed guide to the overlapping EU negotiations of the next decade.

Although the White Paper concentrates on the inter-governmental conference which opens in Turin at the end of this month, that event will be quickly followed by negotiations both to admit members from East and Central Europe and to prepare the internal financial reforms which will heal postwar divisions. No more than two years from now we will know whether a monetary union begins in 1999 and if it does, which states will join. During the closing years of the century, Europe's military alliances will be reformed by talks to expand Nato to the east.

Of all these decisions, the IGC's largely procedural questions are perhaps the least important. The political changes which would be wrought by the creation of a single currency would dwarf the reforms to be debated in the IGC. The Government's White Paper does not guarantee that British ambitions will succeed. But it does contain clear philosophy, plain benchmarks and categorical commitments useful well beyond the confines of the IGC.

The core of the document amounts to the redirection of the European project as it has been understood for the past four decades. Europe's problems of economic uncompetitiveness and unease about the Maastricht

Treaty cannot be solved by "more Europe", as many politicians on the Continent suggest. Maastricht's aspiration to "ever closer union" of peoples must mean a political union or a "United States" of Europe. National parliaments "remain the central focus of democratic legitimacy". These fundamentals can hardly be repeated too often.

The White Paper lists two kinds of negotiating aims: braking mechanisms to check further centralisation and proposals for reform of the EU machinery. There are weaknesses in detail. The Government has no advice on how realistic any of these aims may turn out to be inside the IGC. The list of desirable changes in the procedures of the European Court of Justice is sensible but the court's powers in the treaty have barely been touched since the Treaty of Rome was signed 40 years ago. The section on "flexibility" is too cautious. The Government rightly acknowledges that some EU members may want to integrate further or more quickly than others. But it has not shown that it clearly grasps this pivotal question.

This White Paper will not prevent the Government coming under great pressure in the negotiation to concede points which it has said will not be surrendered. The document can be read as a guide to the principal flashpoints of the IGC: qualified majority voting, the abstract question of the links between the EU and the Western European Union, the powers of the European Parliament and immigration. But the impression left by the brief exchange in the Commons yesterday afternoon was of a Labour Party broadly behind White Paper. Labour has signalled that its resistance to extending majority voting will not be as complete as the Government's; but Mr Cook had no quarrel with Mr Rifkind's negotiating brief based squarely on the legitimacy of the nation state. Whether Labour would be as robust in practice remains in serious doubt. But those among Britain's EU partners who are relying on an election to alter the balance of the IGC, should take note nonetheless.

A CAPITAL IDEA

Make London fit for millennial pedestrians

Walking in London is a battle: not just against the elements, but against thundering buses, lethal motorcycles and pollution. Drivers may not appreciate the fact, but London is still in thrall to the motorcar. As Marcus Binney writes on our Arts pages today, it is time to reclaim the streets.

Let us not be romantic. London will never be like Naples, whose imaginative Mayor Antonio Bassolino, visiting Britain this week, has won international plaudits for closing parts of his city centre to the car. Nor can London compete with the boulevards of Barcelona. Britain's climate is too unforgiving for any attempt to create a Mediterranean city in northern Europe. But Britons are sturdy: given the slightest glimpse of sun, they will sit outside in their overcoats. Only rain and the bitterest cold make outdoor metropolitan life disappear altogether. The architect Richard Rogers wants to pedestrianise much of Trafalgar and Parliament Squares and to construct cafés and restaurants to overlook the fountains. He would turn Northumberland Avenue into a Ramblas, with a street market down the middle. Other proposals include the pedestrianisation of much of Soho, Covent Garden and Bloomsbury.

The instinctive reaction is to deplore the congestion this would cause. The Naples scheme was deemed as impossible until the arrival of the G7 leaders for their summit in 1994 when it suddenly became necessary: the city never looked back. Many London

roads that are now one-way could be opened to two-way traffic. Thus, the north side of the Aldwych and the south side of Trafalgar Square could become two-way, enabling the other sides to be paved over. And people stop driving once traffic becomes intolerable.

The main challenge is to prevent the pedestrianised areas becoming scruffy haunts for tramps, drunken teenagers and pigeons, which has been the fate of the pedestrianised Leicester Square. This depends crucially upon local attractions. Leicester Square has amusement arcades, cinemas and cheap fast food. But Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow and South Molton Street in London are lined with shops and have become more salubrious since they banned cars. In St Christopher's Place, another pedestrianised West End shopping street, people sit outside in virtually all weathers, and shoppers stroll, free from the risk of being run over or poisoned. Yet in Oxford Street, where vehicles are still allowed, pedestrians are squeezed on to narrow pavements and have to jostle their way down the street.

If planners do not have the vision to pave over some of these roads, they may find pedestrians voting with their feet. Soho's Old Compton Street on a Saturday night has become a *de facto* pedestrian precinct. It is thronged with people and almost impossible to drive down. London should experiment: this would be a cheap and easy way for the capital to become a more civilised city in time for the millennium.

NEW REIGN IN SPAIN

José María Aznar must not be denied his Government

Spain is restless, and with good reason. José María Aznar and the conservative Popular Party, the winners by a sliver of the recent general elections, are scratching around with cap in hand for partners in government. Felipe González, whose Socialists lost deservedly ten days ago, now sports a cocky insouciance quite unbecoming of a man who has lost the voters' confidence. The smaller parties are holding out for a greater stake in power than they should be worth in a mature democracy, and the country has its nervous fingers crossed to guard against another, premature election.

Señor Aznar has until the first week of April in which to cook together a majority in Congress. He is a full 20 seats short, compelling him to rely for survival — as his Socialist predecessor-to-be had done — on a *paella* of regionalist parties. He deserves this support, as does Spain, and it should be only a matter of time before he secures it. The question, however, is this: at what price?

The *dramatis personae* are the usual cast of Catalan and Basque nationalists. And in the manner to which most of Spain has become wearily accustomed, Jordi Pujol, the Catalan leader, is once more director of the country's administrative drama. Señor Pujol, than whom there is no man in Spain more astute, is making the conservatives sweat profusely. Under the previous González Government, he acquired a taste for power in Madrid: far from having lost that taste, he will extract even more from a government of Señor Aznar.

To the external observer, there ought to be no insuperable obstacles to an alliance

between Señor Aznar and Señor Pujol. Both are "christian democrats": their views on the economy, the welfare state and the reform of Spain's labour laws ought to make them quite natural allies. The same applies to the Basque nationalists, who are primarily the representatives of their region's middle classes. Why, then, do they balk at an alliance, especially if a failure to work out a harmonious "conservative" political equation could return Señor González to power by the back door?

The answer lies in the misguided perception which the Catalan and Basque parties have of Señor Aznar's commitment to regional autonomy. Señor Pujol, in particular, is profoundly suspicious of an imagined right-wing Castilian conspiracy to undo all the freedom that two decades of post-Franco politics have given to Catalonia. Yet he is wrong: Señor Aznar has done everything within his power to assure Spanish citizens in the regions that the country's autonomous structures would be unaffected by a conservative government. He has, in addition, made explicit statements criticising Franco and his overcentralised vision of Spain.

Señor Pujol, whose contribution to Catalan self-esteem cannot be exaggerated, must now move with the times. For him to deny support to Señor Aznar, and to a reformist, conservative project for Spain, would be both irresponsible and unconscionable. The Popular Party has earned its moment in power, and Señor Aznar must be allowed his opportunity to demonstrate that the democratic Right will govern Spain better than the Socialists have done.

Call for new look at cost of Europe

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, The letter today from the European Movement includes the staggering assertion that the Single European Act has "brought huge economic benefit to Britain".

How the signatories can stand the facts on their head in this way beggars belief. In 1994 the current account balance with Europe included a deficit with the EU as then constituted of £6.49 billion with positive figures for Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Americas — the rest of the world in fact. On top of this deficit with the EU, the UK also contributes £7.3 billion gross to the EU itself as well as paying £1,000 per family for the extra costs of having to buy overpriced European food instead of dealing on world markets.

So far from the Single Market improving this situation, it is making it worse. Before Britain was put into the strait-jacket of the EU, this country was in balance with its European neighbours, and we had our own fish, provided all our own milk and grew what food suited us. The European Movement appears to back the continued enslavement of this country to an unelected bureaucracy in Brussels.

Britain's prospects lie in the greater world outside the stagnating and fraudulent EU. The UK Independence Party has continually been urging this policy and furthermore backing its beliefs with incontrovertible facts. The European Movement would be wise to address these facts.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,
2 Mulgrave Road, NW10,
March 11.

From Mrs Jane Singleton

Sir, Is a referendum on monetary union enough? Surely we need one on the whole concept of the EU. Oh, for somebody to disentangle us so that we can come out altogether!

Yours faithfully,
JANE SINGLETON,
Sootland Lodge,
Winterborne Stoke,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
March 8.

A name on a map

From Mr David Pollard

Sir, Mr Terry Donnelly (letter, March 5) asks for a new name for our "republic" after devolution and other erosions have taken their toll. I fear we may instead be no more than a "region". In a somewhat undemocratic state called Eurosia.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID POLLARD,
Folly Bridge Workshops,
Thames Street, Oxford,
March 6.

From Mr John Hunter

Sir, Lord Dacre (letter, March 7) recalls the dire years of our former republic (1649-60). Many features of that time when bigots interfered and legislated on all aspects of life are here again. For direct rule by major-general read quangos, boards and environmental inspectors; for puritans, read single-issue fanatics who foist their prejudice and rancour on us all and make it law. Like the 1640s, the 1990s is the decade of the sour face who knows what is best for our health, moral and mental.

Perhaps we will have a "restoration", a Cavalier Parliament and a ban on preachers in all their repellent guises.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUNTER,
The Market Cross, Thaxted, Essex.

Teaching standards

From Mrs Douglas Heyman

Sir, Why is so much surprise expressed nowadays at poor and inadequate teaching in our schools? To those of us lucky enough to have acquired our education along traditional lines in good schools, it became clear a generation ago that something potentially dangerous was building up. We are sad, but not at all surprised.

It was always alarming to view the new trendy togetherness between teachers and the "taught", to see that the rows of desks, all focused on the teacher and the blackboard, had gone. Instead, children were all seated at small tables dotted about the room, as in a nursery school for tiny tots, with the odd visit from teacher to help with sums, perhaps, before moving on to the next little group for more cosy chat. Now these same pupils are the teachers and no wonder they find themselves, unused as they are to the well tried disciplines of the classroom, unable to cope.

Today's children, by pressing buttons, have access to technology not dreamed of before. Some of them must have little incentive to learn to add, subtract, divide, multiply, spell and read and write good English, all of which opened new worlds to former generations.

The teacher's task today is so much more difficult than it used to be that gaining the personal attention of the whole class is surely more important than ever.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA HEYMAN,
Mead House,
Appleshaw, Andover, Hampshire,
March 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Right response to unchanging IRA

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Instead of a search for a grand settlement in Northern Ireland, states Simon Jenkins ("Bombers in command", March 6), we need unglamorous, "bottom-up reforms", starting with local government and the individual communities.

Fifty years ago, as a young military observer in Palestine, I wrote an article on the welcome Jewish-Arab co-operation on Haifa Council. It was true but irrelevant for the Jews who were preparing for battle and the Arabs who said to the British, "Get out and we will drive the Jews into the sea."

I am not recommending a "final battle" scenario for Northern Ireland. But Simon Jenkins is not much more realistic than the hopeful politicians he criticises.

MICHAEL IVENS,
2 Mulgrave Road, NW10,
March 7.

From the Editor of the New European

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article provides real insight into one of the greatest dilemmas of our century. In his book, *The Withered Garland*, Group Captain Peter Johnson, who did a lot of bombing in the Second World War, tells us that earlier in the century the Italian general, Douhet, maintained that bombing populations into forcing their governments to capitulate was the way to win wars.

Hitler, Mussolini, even the Allies with their area bombing, Hamas and the IRA have all taken the deceptive lesson to heart.

Twenty-five years of bombing have shown that the IRA are wrong — and now they threaten another 25 years (report, March 7).

The 20th century has been charac-

terised by the deceptive, dramatic appeal of the bomb and of grand theories alike and, as Simon Jenkins shows, proponents of both play into each other's hands. We must hope that the 21st century will return to the realities of the parish pump with only the lightest of international structures to control the squabbles that will undoubtedly occur.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLEMAN,
Editor, *New European*,
14-16 Carroun Road, SW8,
March 8.

From Mr Desmond Keating

Sir, Despite the heroic destruction of whole cities such as Hamburg, Dresden, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is not high time IRA Bomber Command realised that killing civilians is no longer the way to make friends and influence people?

Yours sincerely,
DESMOND KEATING,
37 Cedar Hall, Millbrook Court,
Milltown Road, Dublin 6,
March 8.

From Brigadier Stephen Gilbert

Sir, Having read Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan's admirable letter (March 8) decrying the killing of civilians as a route to martyrdom, it occurs to me how very welcome a letter from Mr Gerry Adams on similar lines, with respect to the recent IRA atrocities, would be.

Yours etc,
STEPHEN GILBERT,
c/o Barclays Bank plc
PO Box 33, 171 High Street,
Guildford, Surrey,
March 8.

Nightingale at war

From Mr M. S. Davies, FRCS

Sir, As part of this hospital's 150th anniversary celebrations this year I have written an account of its founder, John Woolcott, and its first 20 years.

One of its first house surgeons, named O'Callaghan, went to the Crimea as assistant surgeon to the 62nd Regiment and although he made no mention in it of rats (report and pictures, March 7), he too in one of his letters to Woolcott was uncompromising about Florence Nightingale: "You would be astonished to hear for perhaps I should say disgusted that Miss Nightingale reigns supreme here (I mean at the Barrack Hospital... which accommodates about 1,000 men); it is everywhere. Miss Nightingale wishes so and so to be done, and the authorities here are so afraid of the Times that it is done. The nurses are very useful, but the sisters are in the way."

Woolcott, in a letter to the *Maidstone Journal*, remarked that the extract which it had previously published was open to misconstruction. The "purport" of O'Callaghan's letter had

been "to give me an idea how badly the army medical department must be conducted when Miss Nightingale was allowed to 'reign supreme'".

Woolcott gave "all due honour to Miss Nightingale and the lady nurses", acknowledging their self-sacrifice, but nonetheless had become convinced from O'Callaghan's and others' letters that "ladies do not make the best hospital nurses and that a bad nurse was always 'striving to be the doctor', whereas a good one was 'obedient to the surgeon's directions'".

He quoted O'Callaghan as having said that there was an "abundant supply of all necessities at Scutari" and that many of the complaints in *The Times* seemed "much exaggerated."

Nineteenth century-style power of the press, or media hype?

Yours faithfully,
M. S. DAVIES
(Ophthalmic Surgeon),
Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital,
Church Street, Maidstone, Kent,
March 8.

George Burns

From Mr Michael Waring

Sir, As a lifelong fan of George Burns, the great American comedian, I wish to thank you for the obituary you published about him on March 11. For me it captured the essence of this unique entertainer and helped to lessen the sadness felt at his death.

There was one statement in the obituary, however, that I thought was misleading. When stating that the radio show which Burns and his wife, Grace Allen, started in 1932 and which remained on the air in the US for 18 years, your writer commented that "it never did as well in Britain". It would indeed have been remarkable if it had done so as, with the typical arrogance shown by the BBC at the time, it was never broadcast by them.

To the best of my knowledge, the only opportunity people of this country ever had to hear their shows was direct from the US by short wave or through the American Forces Net-

work (AFN), which started in London in 1943. By the end of the war, AFN had moved out of England and those of us who enjoyed the refreshingly informal and very entertaining American radio shows had to listen to the weak and fading signals emanating from Frankfurt, Munich or Stuttgart.

Asa Briggs, in his *History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom* makes it clear that the BBC was nervous about the competition from AFN and quite obviously did not want the British to hear programmes such as *The Burns and Allen Show* which posed a threat to their monopoly. The situation changed later with television, of course, and the *Burns and Allen* TV shows became very popular here — as I am sure, the radio shows would have done, had we been given the opportunity to hear them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WARING,
15 Park Crescent,
Southport, Merseyside,
March 12.

Sheep clones

From Mr Ian Flintoff

Sir, May I tentatively suggest that your report of March 8 on the cloning of sheep may not be quite right in implying that only undifferentiated cells (ie, in the very earliest embryonic stage) are totipotent, and thus able to develop into the complete organism.

In transplantation experiments on cell nuclei in Oxford in 1962, the nuclei of fully differentiated cells from tadpole intestines were successfully used to develop adult frogs, *Xenopus laevis*. Though the success rate was extremely low, this does show that mature cells may contain all the genetic material necessary for the development of the complete organism.

In that sense perhaps, *The Boys from Brazil* and *Jurassic Park* are not entirely nonsensical.

Yours sincerely,
IAN FLINTOFF,
22 Chaldon Road, SW6.

Back to Bach

From Mr Philip D. Badrock

Sir, Shall we now hear *Clones May Safely Graze*?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP D. BADROCK,
Outwood,
South Hill, Chislehurst, Kent,
March 9.

Gays in Armed Forces

From Mr Julian Corlett

Sir, Despite being a relatively high-profile gay rights campaigner (letters, March 7, 12), I was recalled for service in the Gulf War whilst on the regular medical reserves list. Intense media interest resulted in the MoD hastily back-tracking and inviting me to declare personal reasons why I thought I should not go, which would be "sympathetically taken into account".

I refused to take the bait and was subsequently declared ineligible on health grounds. I innocently inquired of the MoD whether our men and women unfortunate enough to be wounded would be treated or left to die in the sand. Of course they would be treated, snapped the man from the Ministry. By whoever was there available to help them, even the gay Dutch medics then already in Saudi? Well, yes.

Surely this rather defeats the point of the British Government's homophobia in relation to the Armed Forces.

Sincerely,
JULIAN CORLETT,
Redbourne House,
Scunthorpe, Humberside,
March 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Land ownership in the Highlands

From Dr Ian Richardson

Sir, The late Duke of Atholl (obituary, February 28; letters, February 29, March 6) was a fine example of the old aristocracy, always conscious of obligations as well as privileges. *Noblesse oblige* may however go down the drive with the nobility.

Few owners manage their own estates nowadays; they are in the hands of a highly skilled corps of agents, on average earning £100 per hour but well worth it in the knowledge of how to tap the cornucopia of state funding. They have moved conspicuously into the area of conservation, the key to bigger grant aid. International financiers, understandably eager to turn paper money into real assets such as mountains, lochs and rivers, find their expertise essential.

In 1747 the Duke of Atholl was awarded compensation of £4,000 for the loss of heritable jurisdictions, *foes et fura*, a ditch-drawing for women offenders and the gallows for men. In 1995 the agents for the Duke of Atholl, amongst other grants, collected £400,000 for amenity planting. The continuity is delightful.

There is a pressing desire for change in the Highlands, and an urgent need to move towards community ownership of local amenities, agriculture, forestry, sport and tourism. The present Secretary of State, Mr Michael Forsyth, recognises and supports this and has already had a profound effect on public opinion. It is probably too little and too late.

Yours faithfully,
IAN RICHARDSON,
Mullach-na-Beinne,
Laggan, Newtonmore, Highland,
March 7.

From Mr E. S. Carr

Sir, In his welcome article on land ownership in Scotland (Scottish edition, February 27) Magnus Linklater rightly praised the Duke of Atholl and other landowners who have taken seriously their responsibilities to their tenants and workers and have also recognised the need to preserve Scotland's great wildernesses.

This is a difficult balance, and one which is increasingly rarely achieved. One development which particularly concerns me is a proposal which has recently been submitted to the Highland Regional Council for an extensive development, with a restaurant, a hotel, a shop and a large parking area for cars and coaches on an unspoiled site of great natural beauty and of unique interest to mountaineers and lovers of wild places.

Glen Brittle in the Isle of Skye, where the development is planned, is the most important base for climbing and walking in the Black Cuillin. Britain's grandest range of mountains. Not only would the development be an alien intrusion, visible from many points on the surrounding mountains, it would also — in order to succeed commercially — need to bring in large numbers of people who have never wished to visit the place.

This does not look to me like a public-spirited proposal to provide facilities which are currently lacking. There is nothing to prevent anyone from visiting the glen now, and there is a good supply of accommodation. Planning regulations only require that notice of the plan should be published locally. This meant that few people outside the area were aware of it until it was too late to lodge objections. I hope, nonetheless, that this very special place, one of Scotland's most precious jewels, can still be preserved in its present unspoiled condition.

Yours faithfully,
E. S. CARR,
17 Bertram Road, Liverpool.

Pigeons in Square

From Mr Richard Lane Fox

Sir, I have no doubt that Dr Thomas Stuttaford ("Unsavory risks for pigeon fancier", March 11) is spot on when he describes the Trafalgar Square pigeon as more dangerous to handle than to eat.

But do I detect a hint of regional bias in his rather snitty comparison of the "scrawny" feral London pigeon with the "plump" Norfolk wood-pigeon?

At this time of year, stuffed with tourist buns and peanuts, the towmy bird is likely to be a fat lot plumper than his country cousin — as the phantom birdnapper of Trafalgar Square seems to recognise better than your correspondent.

Yours very truly,
R. S. LANE FOX,
17 Princesdale Road, W11,
March 11.

Last orders

From Mr Michael Lyndon Skeggs

Sir, "The Colonel tinkled the Benin mess bell..." The image conjured in your leader of March 6, "Send for Serena", is a pleasing one; but tell me what basic training ever taught a mess corporal to invite the Colonel, or anyone else for that matter, to have another pink gin. Such a solecism would be worthy of a Bateman cartoon.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL LYNDON SKEGGS,
Oakhall,
Cornhill on Tweed, Northumberland,
March 7.

OBITUARIES

MEYER SHAPIRO

Meyer Shapiro, art historian and teacher, died on March 3 aged 91. He was born on September 23, 1904.

THE EARLY years of this century were remarkable in the art world for the reintegration into mainstream thinking of various arts which, until then, had been deemed in some sense primitive and of merely scientific interest. In the 1920s it was African and Oceanic art which was rediscovered, mainly by European artists. In the 1930s it was the turn of early European art, notably the Romanesque — and the one man most responsible for this revolution in attitudes was Meyer Shapiro.

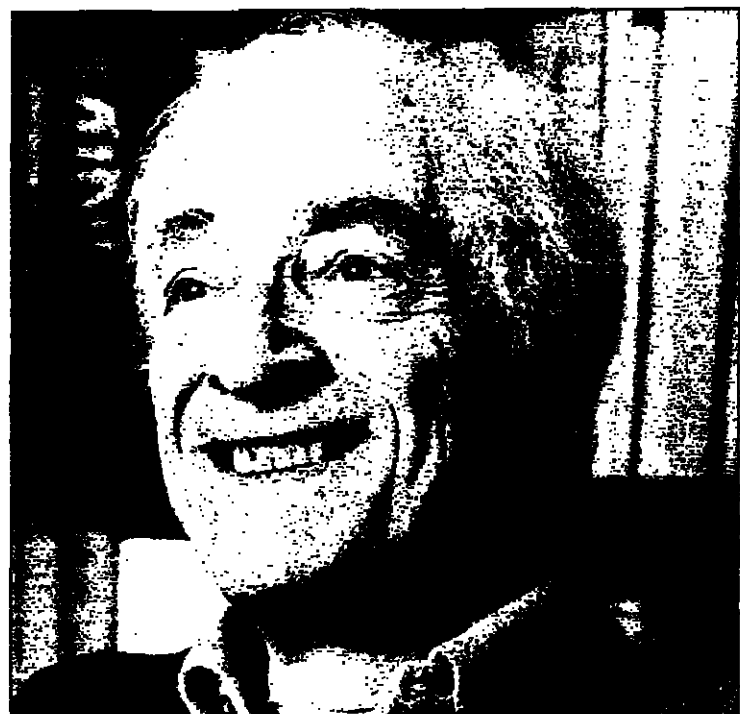
It might be expected that an art historian, especially a very young art historian, should constantly be opening people's eyes to the value of the long neglected or disregarded. But such an expectation often proves over optimistic. Shapiro was a shining exception: he was a one-man answer to the old jibe (adapted from Oscar Wilde's famous definition of a cynic) that an art historian knows the significance of everything and the value of nothing.

Shapiro was not afraid to make value judgments on the past. Indeed, it never occurred to him not to. What he felt in front of a piece of Romanesque sculpture — the great portal of Moissac, for example — was certainly the curiosity of a scholar. At this curiosity was inspired from the outset by a passionate emotional response to the qualities of the work itself as a piece of art which could

speak across the centuries. When Shapiro capped five years of minutely detailed investigation in France by presenting his doctoral dissertation to Columbia University in 1929, his impassioned response was virtually unique in the world, and certainly unheard of in English art historical writing. His work reached a wider audience in 1931 when parts of his research were published in *The Art Bulletin*.

Mysteriously, Shapiro held back from going truly public for much of his professional life. His influence was felt more indirectly, disseminated through the generations of pupils he inspired and the writings of scholars perhaps more adept at popularisation than he was — but always, fortunately, with due acknowledgment. Shapiro did not in fact publish *Romanesque Art*, a collection of his classic essays and lectures, until 1977 when, having virtually retired from academic life, he found the time to put together the four volumes on which his reputation rests.

It is possible that Shapiro was helped towards his clear appreciation of the aesthetic value of Romanesque and early Christian art by not himself being brought up in the same religious tradition. His family were orthodox Jews, Yiddish-speaking and learned in literary Hebrew. He could not take the specifically religious emotions that Christian art would inspire in a born Christian for granted. If he was moved it was for more complex reasons which he urgently needed to understand.



In his teens Shapiro had dreams of becoming an artist himself, but soon recognised that he would never be first-rate and switched instead to art history and philosophy, graduating in these subjects before he was 20. However, the artistic impulse always remained and he perceived art through the eyes of the artist as well as the historian. For this reason he was always able to communicate well

with artists, many of whom he counted among his closest friends, including figures such as Willem de Kooning. There are endless stories of how Shapiro demonstrated to major modern figures such as Léger the immediate appeal of some of the more obscure artefacts of Romanesque and Gothic art.

Given these connections, it is not surprising that Shapiro was able to

write and lecture with equal ease and enthusiasm on the seminal figures of late 19th and early 20th-century art. Among the few works that he published between 1931 and 1977 were brief but idea-packed books on Van Gogh and Cézanne, and during the 1930s he was a vital elucidator of Picasso and Braque, showing an intimidated American audience exactly how they fitted into the great classic tradition.

Most of Shapiro's academic career was spent at Columbia University where he became a lecturer in 1928, assistant professor in 1936, associate professor in 1946, professor in 1952, university professor in 1965, and finally professor emeritus in 1973. In the mid-1930s his ideas moved significantly to the left, and he began writing for the *Partisan Review*, the *Marxist Quarterly* and the *New Masses*, as well as, perhaps more influentially, teaching at the New School for Social Research in New York from 1936 to 1952.

In later life he was showered with honours. As Charles Eliot Norton Lecturer at Harvard from 1966 to 1967 and Slade Professor at Oxford in 1968 he took his duties seriously and enthralled younger generations with an enthusiasm which, at times, carried him away. On the podium he would elaborate new ideas as he went along. Listeners never knew what he was going to say next, because he very often did not know either where his questing mind might lead.

Shapiro married his wife, a pediatrician, in 1928. She and their two children survive him.

PETER MANSFIELD

Peter Mansfield, Sunday Times foreign correspondent, died of a stroke in Warwick on March 9 aged 67. He was born in Ranchi, India, on September 2, 1928.



AMONG British writers and commentators on the Middle East, Peter Mansfield earned himself a distinguished place by forty years of thoughtful work and the passion of his convictions. The Arab world, in all its fascination, variety, and maddening contrariness, captured his mind when he was a young man, and he was to remain faithful to Arab aspirations to the end.

His life-long hope, which in his last months turned to something like despair, was that he would live to see an Arab-Israeli peace based on justice. By this he meant Israeli recognition of the Palestinians' right to a state of their own in the West Bank and Gaza, and to compensation for their sufferings in exile and under occupation. Steeped in the history and politics of the region, he saw this as the only viable proposition for a durable settlement between Arab and Jew, the only way to heal the profound wound of Palestinian dispossession, and by so doing silence and defeat the bombers and other extremists. With such views he was sceptical of the Oslo accords of September 1993, which, although hailed by the world as a breakthrough, have, so far at least, brought the Palestinians only paltry gains.

The accords, in the opinion of Mansfield, did little to address themselves to the key issues of self-determination, the fate of more than three million Palestinian refugees dispersed across the Arab world, the future of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and of Arab East Jerusalem.

In recent years, Peter Mansfield aired his robust views on these and related matters in *Middle East International*, a well informed journal published in London, where he shared the leader page with Michael Adams, another redoubtable advocate of the Palestinian cause. Together they were early members of The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), a gentlemanly pro-Arab body.

Peter John Mansfield was born in the Bihar province of India where his father was an officer in the Indian Civil Service. After Westminster School and Cambridge (where he was president of the Union), he joined the Foreign Office and in early 1956 was sent to Lebanon to learn Arabic. His background and abilities, and his patrician good looks, seemed to destiny him for a successful, if conventional, career.

Then came the Suez Crisis — the collusion between Britain, France, and Israel to attack Egypt, wrest the Suez Canal, which had previously been nationalised by

President Nasser, from its control, and if possible overthrow Nasser. Outraged by this adventure, which brought down Anthony Eden, Mansfield, then aged 28, threw up his promising career in the British service.

To make a living, he turned to freelance journalism in Beirut where, perhaps influenced by the undoubted charms of the city in the late 1950s and 1960s, another person gradually took shape. Acquainted, free from convention, and very much his own man, it was there that he met Luis Canizares, a talented and well-born Spanish painter with whom he was to live in model amity in Cairo, London, and Seville for the next 35 years.

For much of the 1960s, Mansfield was the Cairo-based Middle East correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, covering in weekly dispatches the high drama of Nasser's turbulent career — his short-lived union with Syria, his disastrous armed intervention in Yemen, the authoritarian attempt to reshape Egyptian society on socialist lines, and finally the ill-judged gamble in Sinai, which led to the annihilation by Israel of the Egyptian army (and of the Syrian and Jordanian armies) in the 1967 war, and to the occupation by Israel of vast tracts of Arab territory — a legacy bedevilling Middle East politics to this day.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield's life-long credo was that the legitimate aspirations of Arab nationalists, of Muslim societies struggling to come to terms with modernity, and of dispossessed Palestinians, had to be understood and sympathetically addressed rather than confronted and demonised.

BROWNIE MCGHEE

Brownie McGhee, blues singer and guitarist, died in San Francisco on February 18 aged 80. He was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 30, 1915.

FOR forty years from when they first collaborated in 1940 Brownie McGhee and his partner, the harmonica-player Sonny Terry, were the epitome of the country blues. Through the 1960s and 1970s they toured the international circuit as a duo, Terry's rhythmic "blue" harp playing and McGhee's nimble virtuoso guitar accompaniment forming the sole backing for their singing. They recorded in Britain with Chris Barber in 1958, beginning an influence from blues revivalists that extended to groups like the Animals and the Rolling Stones. In America they influenced other revivalists such as the Paul Butterfield Blues Band.

Terry was almost blind, and

McGhee still limped after a childhood attack of polio, but despite their frail appearance they played with dramatic vigour. Terry's upright stance, staring blankly ahead as he played and sang, contrasted sharply with the urbane, moustachioed McGhee, whose dazzling smile, instrumental facility and natural charm played easily off an audience.

Although a generation younger than the first blues players, McGhee's links to tradition were impeccable. He wandered the southern states as an itinerant musician in the 1930s, he inherited the guitar of Blind Boy Fuller, he shared a house with convicted murderer and singer Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter, and he recorded with pioneers like champion Jack Dupree.

Walter Brown McGhee was the son of a labourer and farmer, George McGhee, who played guitar in his spare time. The young boy was given a primitive guitar made

by his uncle and he learnt the rudiments of playing from his father. As a child he played music with his brother Granville who was nicknamed "Stick", possibly because he played drums, but also after the pole with which he pushed his crippled older brother's wheelchair. They later recorded together in the 1940s.

Despite his illness (initially confining him to crutches, but later leaving him with just a severe limp), McGhee was an intelligent boy who won local public speaking contests. His convalescence made him proficient on guitar and piano, although he completely relearned his guitar technique in his late teens in order to develop his ability to play a fingerpicked melody and simultaneous accompaniment, using metal "picks" on two fingers and his right thumb.

McGhee forsook college and adopted the life of an itinerant musician, wandering the southern states throughout the 1930s, until he met Terry while on the road from Winston-Salem to Greensboro. Terry was then working with Blind Boy Fuller, but their manager J.B. Long secured McGhee his first date for Okeh in August 1940, and he cut *Pickin' My Tomatoes*. Not long afterwards, Fuller died. McGhee took over his steel guitar and briefly recorded under the name "Blind Boy Fuller No II".

Fuller's death threw Terry and McGhee together and they began touring and recording. Booked to appear on

a folk-blues concert in Washington alongside Leadbelly they were discovered by the white folklorists who encouraged the blues revival, and they became associates of Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, and Leadbelly.

They lived with Leadbelly and recorded for Moe Asch's Folkways label, taking to the streets of New York to busk when times got hard. When, in the late 1940s, Terry took a cameo part in *Finian's Rainbow* on Broadway, McGhee began an intense freelance career as a guitarist, recording and teaching at "Brownie's Home of Blues" on 125th Street in Harlem. His guitar technique was inimitable, but Happy Traum's book *The Guitar Style of Brownie McGhee* made it accessible to those who wished to emulate him.

Critics tended to dismiss Terry and McGhee as their careers developed. Their repertoire inclined to be static. They deputised for big Bill Broonzy on a 1950s tour of Britain. Later they played in the Broadway production of *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and then embarked on several years of international travel. They continued to represent the voice of the blues for those who heard them at everything from Oxford and Cambridge May Balls to international rock and blues festivals.

McGhee seldom worked after he and Terry ceased to tour, shortly before Terry's death in 1986.

Brownie McGhee married in 1950 and had five children.

PROFESSOR FRANK SIBLEY

Frank Sibley, former Professor of Philosophy at Lancaster University, died on February 18 aged 72. He was born on February 28, 1923.

FRANK SIBLEY was one of the most able and distinguished of the philosophers who, in the years immediately after the Second World War, learnt their craft in the Oxford school under the presiding influence of Gilbert Ryle. Although he published in several areas of philosophy, his reputation rested principally on his work in aesthetics.

In the early postwar years this was a neglected and undervalued area of philosophy. Sibley helped to reclaim it as a serious form of inquiry, demonstrating that the tech-

niques of analytical philosophy could be applied to the solution of problems which were of interest to practitioners and critics of the arts.

Frank Noel Sibley began his teaching career in the United States, where he was chairman of the Sage School of Philosophy at Cornell University and managing editor of the *Philosophical Review*.

He returned to England in 1964 on being appointed to the first chair of Philosophy in the new University of Lancaster, where he spent the rest of his career. Enjoying the *carte blanche* that the new Robbins universities offered their founders, he lost no time in establishing a strong tradition in the teaching of philosophy, with a particular emphasis on studying it in tandem with

another discipline. Closest to his own interests was a scheme whereby undergraduates could combine the study of philosophy with that of music, literature, drama or the visual arts.

His article *Aesthetic Concepts*, published in 1959, has come to be regarded as a classic. Together with further papers written over the next 35 years, it constituted a powerful theory of aesthetic appreciation and criticism, marked by simplicity, precision of language and careful argument.

However, a number of Sibley's papers remain unpublished because he was still "tinkering" with them, his term for the incessant rethinking and rewriting. When a paper was near to readiness Sibley would often read it to

the department. The discussion would reveal the awesome depth and detail with which he had thought the issues through, and promising objections would be strewn on the battlefield. His papers, including those unpublished in his lifetime, will, it is hoped, be collected in a volume.

During much of his time in Lancaster Sibley was in poor health. He was, however, active in the establishment of the British Society for Aesthetics and its journal.

He endured long periods of illness. Eventually leukaemia was diagnosed. But his intellectual energy was never entirely suppressed, and he was always ready for a philosophical joust.

He is survived by his wife Margaret and two daughters.

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MILITANT PICKETING SPREADS COAL STRIKE TO 100 PITS

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Militant picketing at pitheads in South Wales and Scotland yesterday brought out on strike more than half of the coal industry's labour force as Yorkshire miners began an indefinite stoppage. National Coal Board officials calculated last night that 99 pits employing more than 96,000 men were at a standstill as left-wing union leaders urged sympathetic industrial action, despite reservations among the men.

Later, Harwood Colliery in Nottinghamshire was closed after pickets arrived from Yorkshire.

As the strike in Yorkshire over the proposed closure of Cortonwood and Bulcliffe Wood collieries started, the NCB said that South Wales pits had been "picked out" by miners defying a vote to continue working. Only three of the 28 Welsh pits were working. The 10 pits in Scotland were idle. Swift support

ON THIS DAY

March 13, 1984

The first break in the miners' strike was in November 1984 when the North Wales NUM returned to work. After a steady trickle of strike breakers the NUM voted for a return on March 3 1985.

came from the Transport and General Workers' Union, which called on members not to move coal to power stations and other stockpiling establishments that could weaken the National Union of Mineworkers' position.

The stoppage spread most rapidly in Scotland, South Wales, Kent and Durham from Yorkshire, the biggest coalfield, where 53 pits were idle yesterday, and 56,000 men on strike. Some Yorkshire miners disobeyed leaders' appeals to stay in their area and tried to picket in

north Nottinghamshire, though with little effect.

The coal board plans to close four million tonnes of capacity in the next financial year, involving the closure of up to 20 pits employing 20,000 men. The cutbacks in Yorkshire represent the first stage in this plan to bring mining capacity into line with reduced demand.

Mr Jack Taylor, president of the Yorkshire NUM, appealed to his members to continue the "responsible and disciplined approach" of restricting picketing to their own coalfield, while asking miners in other areas to follow their "magnificent lead".

Over the border in Derbyshire, the acting area secretary, Mr Gordon Butler, disclosed that 11,500 men would be recommended to strike in a ballot on Friday and asked the Yorkshire "flying pickets" to stay away in the meantime.

Fights and scuffles broke out last night as miners from the Harworth pit in north Nottinghamshire protested at the closure of their mine by 300 "flying pickets" from Yorkshire.

Widow unprotected against bank Appeal sentencing powers limited

Lloyds Bank plc v Carrick and Another
Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment February 28]

A widow who sold her house and gave the proceeds of £19,000 to her brother-in-law on an oral agreement that that would be payment for a mortgage, the lease of which was owned by him, had no interest valid against a bank sufficient to constitute a defence against a claim for possession in respect of a legal charge subsequently made between her brother-in-law and the bank, charging the lease as security for a loan.

The result would have been different if the title to the mortgage had been registered. Then the interest of the widow, who had been in possession since November 1982 and of whom no inquiry had been made, would have been an overriding interest under section 70(1)(g) of the Land Registration Act 1925 and would have been binding on the bank.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Lloyds Bank plc, against the order of Mr Recorder Holmes, in Cambridge County Court on July 5, 1994, whereby he (i) dismissed the plaintiffs' claim for possession of leasehold property at 7 Derby Way, Newmarket, and (ii) made a declaration that the first defendant, Mr Michael Robert Carrick, held the lease of that property in trust for the second defendant, Mrs Margaret Carrick, so that her interests and rights over that property were not subject to the bank's charge dated November 25, 1986.

Section 14 of the Law of Property Act 1925 provides: "This part of this Act shall not prejudicially affect the interest of any person in possession or in actual occupation of land to which he may be entitled in right of such possession or occupation."

Section 70 of the Land Registration Act 1925 provides: "(1) All registered land shall... be deemed to be subject to such of the following overriding interests... and such interests shall not be

treated to be incommensurate with the meaning of this Act... (g) The rights of every person in actual occupation of the land... save where inquiry is made of such person and the rights are not disclosed..."

Miss Josephine Hayes for the plaintiffs, Mr Neil Vickery for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the bank issued a summons against Mr Carrick seeking judgment for £99,010.95 and an order for possession of the mortgage.

He admitted the money claim but said that he was a bare trustee of the property for his sister-in-law. Accordingly, Mrs Carrick was joined as a defendant.

In her defence it was said that no contract of sale was concluded between the defendants and that the first defendant held his interest in the property upon a bare trust for her.

The bank contended that the recorder should have found that the only interest of Mrs Carrick in the mortgage was an estate contract within the Land Charges Act 1972 which was void for want of registration against the bank as Bank plc against the order of Mr Recorder Holmes, in Cambridge County Court on July 5, 1994, whereby he (i) dismissed the plaintiffs' claim for possession of leasehold property at 7 Derby Way, Newmarket, and (ii) made a declaration that the first defendant, Mr Michael Robert Carrick, held the lease of that property in trust for the second defendant, Mrs Margaret Carrick, so that her interests and rights over that property were not subject to the bank's charge dated November 25, 1986.

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Altering grounds for possession

Camden London Borough Council v Oppong

The provisions of section 84(3) of the Housing Act 1985, that grounds for the possession of a dwelling-house let under a secure tenancy as specified in the notice for which proceedings for possession were begun, might be altered or added to with the leave of the court, meant that such grounds might be altered or added to by altering or adding to the particulars of the

grounds specified.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Douglas Brown) so held on February 22 allowing the appeal of Camden London Borough Council against the dismissal by Judge Tibber in Central London County Court on October 26, 1994, of the council's claim for possession as landlords against their tenant, Emmanuel Oppong, of a flat at 108B Hamood Street, Camden.

of the price by Mrs Carrick only served to make it a bare trust by removing any beneficial interest of Mr Carrick. Section 4(6) of the Land Charges Act 1972 avoided that contract as against the bank.

The result must be that Mrs Carrick was unable to establish the bare trust as against the bank for it had no existence except as the equitable consequence of the contract. Accordingly the contention based on the bare trust had to be rejected.

The contention based on the constructive trust was that Mrs Carrick was entitled to the whole beneficial interest in the property and that that interest was not registrable so that the bank, having had constructive notice of it, took subject to it. Reliance was placed on the speech of Lord Bridge of Harwich in *Lloyds Bank plc v Rosset* [1991] AC 107, 132.

Here there was a trust of the mortgage for the benefit of Mrs Carrick because there had been an agreement between her and Mr Carrick which, for her part, she had substantially if not wholly performed. As between her and Mr Carrick such trust subsisted at all times after November 1982.

His Lordship agreed with counsel for the bank that there was no room in those circumstances for the implication or imposition of any further trust for the benefit of Mrs Carrick.

The speech of Lord Bridge in *Lloyds Bank v Rosset* had to be read by reference to the facts of that case. So read there was nothing in it to suggest that where there was a specifically enforceable contract, the court was entitled to superimpose a further constructive trust on the vendor in favour of the purchaser over that which already existed in consequence of the contractual relationship.

The third contention was that Mrs Carrick was entitled to the benefit of proprietary estoppel. It was submitted that, by reference to the principles set out in *Snell's Equity* (29th edition (1990) pp574-576), such an estoppel arose in her favour because she had paid the purchase price and carried out improvements in the belief common to both her and Mr Carrick and to that extent encouraged by

him that she either did own it or would own it.

His Lordship observed that it was a matter of some doubt whether the principles of proprietary estoppel differed from those of that species of constructive trust referred to by Lord Bridge in *Lloyds Bank v Rosset*. In the passage from his speech already mentioned, he had treated the two labels as interchangeable.

As in the case of the constructive trust, his Lordship could not see how there was any room for the application of the principles of proprietary estoppel when at the time of the relevant expenditure there was already a trust arising in consequence of an enforceable contract to the same effect as the interest sought pursuant to the proprietary estoppel. He would allow the appeal.

That result seemed to be inevitable in the light of the provisions of the Land Charges Act 1972 and of the Law of Property Act 1925. However, it would be surprising if the result would have been different if the title to the mortgage had been registered.

In such a case the interest of Mrs Carrick, who was in possession and of whom no inquiry had been made, would have been an overriding interest under section 70(1)(g) of the Land Registration Act 1925. As such it would have been binding on the bank.

As the authors of *Megarry & Wade on The Law of Real Property* (8th edition (1984) pp186-187) pointed out, the same position would have been achieved under the Law of Property Act 1922 for what was now section 14 of the Law of Property Act 1925 was then in a part which also contained the legislation which subsequently became the Land Charges Act 1925.

In his Lordship's view it was beyond doubt that section 14 of the Law of Property Act 1925 did not achieve for unregistered land that which section 70(1)(g) achieved for registered land but whether that was originally intended or was a quirk of the process of breaking up the Law of Property Act 1922 into, among others, the Law of Property Act 1925 and the Land Charges Act 1925 was unclear.

What was certain was that it must be for others to consider and for Parliament to decide whether that distinction between registered and unregistered land should continue, particularly as the system for the registration of incumbrances in the case of unregistered land was by no means complete, as was shown by *Inwards v Baker* [1965] 2 QB 29; *Ives v High* [1967] 2 QB 379; and *Shiloh Spinners v Harding* [1973] AC 691.

Sir Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Taylor Vinners, Cambridge; Quirke & Co, Croydon.

Regina v Ogden

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Cusack and Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment March 5]

Where a crown court revoked a community service order imposed by justices substituted detention in a young offender institution, the sentencing powers of the crown court were limited to the justices' sentencing powers.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing in part an appeal against sentence passed on Dylan Lee Ogden, aged 20, on plea of guilty at Kingston upon Hull Crown Court where he had been sentenced by Mr Assistant Recorder C. W. Ekins concurrently to three years detention in a young offender institution for attempted robbery and two years for having an offensive weapon.

He had admitted being in breach of a community service order of 60 hours imposed by Southwark Juvenile Court for two burglaries of non-domestic premises

and possessing a class B drug. The crown court revoked the order and substituted concurrent periods of detention of nine months for each of the burglaries, concurrent with one month for possession of the drug, so that the total sentence was three years and nine months.

On appeal the detention for the burglaries was reduced to three months each concurrent, so that the total sentence became three years and three months.

The decision resolved conflict between earlier authorities concerning the meaning of the phrase "the court" in the last line of paragraph 82(b) in Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice Act 1991, concerning a relevant order inter alia, a community service order.

Magistrates' courts' sentencing powers were limited by section 133(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 to a six month aggregate, subject to certain exceptions.

Paragraph 8 in Schedule 2 to the 1991 Act provides: "(2) If it appears to the crown court to be in the interests of justice to do so, having

regard to circumstances which have arisen since the order was made, the crown court may... (b) revoke the order and deal with the offender for the offence in respect of which the order was made, in any manner in which it could deal with him if he had just been convicted by or before the court of the offence."

Mr Simon R. G. Hickey, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, delivering the judgment of the court, referred to conflicting authorities and said that in *R v Koser* (1995) Crim LR 342 the transcript of the judgment, delivered by Mr Justice Jowitt, read: "On one reading it might appear that the reference to 'the court' in (b) is to the crown court."

"In our judgment that cannot be so since this would give to the crown court a power to impose sentences in excess of those which the justices could have imposed, notwithstanding that the crown

court may be re-sentencing in the case of an order made in the magistrates court. In our judgment, the reference to 'the court' in paragraph 82(b) must be to the court which made the order."

Their Lordships would also point out that, although the words "crown court" appeared in the first line, it had been thought necessary to repeat the full phrase before embarking on sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

If the proper construction of "court" in the final line was "crown court," one wondered why it had been necessary to repeat the whole phrase in the preamble.

By the same token, it would have been possible for Parliament, had it wished to make clear that crown court was referred to at the end of the sub-paragraph, to say so for the third time.

Suffice it to say that, while their Lordships accepted that the wording of the sub-paragraph was not felicitous, they considered that henceforth the view taken in *Koser* was to be followed.

Objective test for vendor's lien over land

Barclays Bank plc v Estates and Commercial Ltd (in liquidation) and Another

Before Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment February 20]

Whether a vendor retained a lien over his land for the unpaid purchase money was not a question of the subjective intention of parties to the sale but was to be objectively ascertained from the transaction.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Arthur Bessley, from an order of Judge Victor Hall, at Peterborough County Council, for recovery by the plaintiffs, Barclays Bank plc, of possession of 18A Silver Lane, Needingworth, Cambridgeshire.

Mr Michael Yelton for Mr Bessley; Mr Gregory Mitchell for the bank; Estates and Commercial Ltd took no part in the proceedings.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that on December 17, 1985 Mr Arthur Bessley conveyed the property to his son, Noel Bessley, for £70,000. Only £19,000 of that amount was paid by Noel, and Arthur and his wife remained in occupation of the property.

At trial Arthur gave evidence of the circumstances of the sale which was unchallenged. It was clear from that evidence that the consideration for the sale was the £70,000 and a half share of the profits of redevelopment of the property by Noel. No time was agreed for the payment, and Arthur and his wife were to remain rent-free in occupa-

tion until the property was required for redevelopment.

In 1987 Noel conveyed the property to the first defendant, On December 9, 1988 the first defendant granted the plaintiffs a first legal charge on the property. Arthur's wife had died but Arthur remained in occupation, yet the plaintiffs made no inquiry of him, assuming that the property was empty.

The judge had held that Arthur was not entitled to the unpaid vendor's lien over the property, and in support of his decision it was submitted by the plaintiffs that the proposal for sharing the profits of the redevelopment was inconsistent with the existence of a lien.

However, as soon as a binding contract was entered into the

vendor became entitled to the lien, which did not depend on completion of the contract. See *In re Birmingham* (1959) Ch 523 and *London and Cheshire Insurance Co Ltd v Lagan* (1964) AC 413.

Even if the vendor executed an outright conveyance and parted with possession of the property and the title deeds he had an equitable lien on the property in respect of the unpaid purchase money; see *Williams on Vendor and Purchaser* (4th edition (1936) vol 2 pp983-984).

The test of the existence of the lien was to be objectively ascertained from the transaction between the parties: *Winter v Lord Apsley* (1827) 3 Russ 488. The subjective intention of the parties was irrelevant.

The contrary statement in *Snell's Equity* (29th edition (1990)) was not supported by the authority there cited, *Davies v Thomas* (1900) 2 Ch 462, was inconsistent with *Kettlewell v Watson* (1884) 26 Ch D 501.

Thus, the question was whether there was anything in the transaction which would lead to the exclusion of the lien. All that the plaintiffs could rely on was that the parties had contemplated sharing the profits of the redevelopment, but that was not a precondition of the sale. To subordinate the lien to the plaintiffs' charge would have required the vendor's consent, which was not given.

Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Waite agreed.

Solicitors: Leeds Day, Sandy; Harris Rosenblatt & Kramer.

Reasons need not be given

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Al-Fayed Same v Same, Ex parte Fayed

The Secretary of State for the Home Department was under no duty to give reasons for refusing applications for naturalisation under section 6(1) and (2) of the British Nationality Act 1981. Nor was he obliged to give an applicant an opportunity to make representations concerning matters adverse to his application.

Mr Justice Judge, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held on February 26, dismissing

applications for judicial review by Mohamed Al-Fayed and Ali Fayed against the Home Secretary's refusal of their naturalisation applications under section 6(1) and (2) of the 1981 Act.

The grounds of challenge were that the secretary of state was in breach of the rules of natural justice in failing to allow the applicants the opportunity of making representations and in failing to give reasons for his decision.

MR JUSTICE JUDGE said that the unequivocal language of section 44(2) of the 1981 Act meant that, however desirable to an

applicant or the court, the secretary of state could not be required to give reasons for a refusal under section 6 and no duty could be created by implication.

On the uncontradicted facts divorced from the statutory context the process lacked the appearance of fairness; but that did not mean that the decision was unlawful. Questions of fairness had to be decided in the context in which they arose. In the present case the imposition of a right to be heard in accordance with the principles of fairness was inconsistent with the language and effect of section 44(2).

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Both obituary columns and *Desert Island Discs* should offer affectionate recognition of public figures, not derision and criticism

A grilling in Sue Lawley's desert



BRENDA MADDOX

One of the most terrifying moments in my life as a journalist came when, as a novice on the *Patriot-Ledger* in Quincy, Massachusetts, I was asked to update the obituary of the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Boston. Updating obituaries was what we did in the afternoon on this suburban daily, to fill in the stretch between the last deadline for the final edition (1pm) and the time we could go home (3.30pm).

I dialled the Chancery, confident that an able Monsignor would fill me in. To my horror the telephone was answered by an unmistakable South Boston voice of jagged steel, renowned for rasping the Rosary over the radio.

The *Patriot-Ledger*, I remembered, wanted to know, if, er, His Eminence had any, gulp, recent honours or publications to add to his... long list of achievements.

"Whaddya wanna know fah?" demanded the shrewd prelate. Now it should not be hard to explain to a man of God of advanced years that he is mortal. Yet somehow I found it so. I cannot

remember how I escaped from this telephonic nightmare, but I do know that I could have assured my interrogator that the word "tramp" would not appear in his obituary.

The row about the Press Association's description of the late Lord Jay as "a shambling figure once mistaken for a tramp" marks a battle worth fighting. That these and other derisive phrases about a newly dead man should come from a wire service — no stylist's paradise — proves that the trend for fine writing in obituaries has gone too far.

Obituary does not mean hagiography. Everybody welcomes the new freshness of obituary writing which allows for humour, anecdote and reminders of the flaws of the deceased. But an obituary is above all a ceremonial speech, a form of words and information to mark the close of a life. Barbs are permissible, especially if the obitu-

ary is signed. But decorum is essential, as are biographical details. A Last Judgment is not.

A review of the public performance of a prominent figure belongs elsewhere in the paper. And I say paper, because obituaries are inherently a print phenomenon. Paper endures. Why ugly obituaries hurt relatives so much is that they are written records cut out and kept, like wedding photographs, in the family archive.

Accuracy must be paramount. Nothing can distress a family more than factual errors: two daughters, not a son and a daughter. Middle name James, not John. I imagine that the relatives of the young man who was recently described in the *Brecon and Radnorshire Express* as "126 years old" were just as upset as those of Lord Jay by what they read.

American obituaries, po-faced

compared to the best of British, are far less shy about stating the cause of death. If the American variety ventures into troubled waters, these tend, as befits a nation of hypochondriacs, to be in the region of health. Words like "a heavy smoker, she died of lung cancer" rock with moral reproach, and to find half a dozen deaths from "an AIDS-related illness" scattered across the obituary pages is a

social comment in itself. (Anthony Howard, obituaries editor of *The Times*, tells me that he tries to include the cause of death up to the age of 70, after which, barring accident, the cause can be safely assumed to be *anno domini*.)

The very fact of mentioning an obituary in a national newspaper implies some contribution to public life. So does an invitation to appear on *Desert Island Discs*. To require those who accept to defend their reputations is an insult to all those who carry around in their heads their own list of eight records, should the call come.

Sue Lawley's mistake is to treat the programme as investigative journalism or psychological profiling, rather than an affectionate ritual of recognition for having made a mark.

Once again, the sin — for which the producer, who does the editing, should probably get most of the

blame — is to misunderstand the genre. To ask Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, to defend himself against charges of homosexuality because he is unmarried at forty-something is as out of place as if on *Newsnight* Jeremy Paxman were to ask the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, which book he would like to take to a desert island, excluding the Bible and Shakespeare which are already there.

Months ago, I was irritated by Ms Lawley's grilling of Professor Eric Hobsbawm about his Marxist philosophy, as if he were Oppenheimer about to be stripped of his security clearance rather than an eminent historian and jazz expert. Perhaps they should rename the programme *Devil's Island Discs* and openly treat an appearance as punishment.

Choosing words that go far but

not too far is a delicate art which the British both enjoy and indulge. A colleague on *The Economist* once refused the ritual leaving party in order to avoid the speech: "Words that will burn in your mind for the rest of your life." Malpractice can be seen at weddings, as Hugh Grant ably demonstrated, where custom requires the best man ceremoniously to list the shortcomings of the newlyweds which make them so well suited to each other.

So where is the place for judgment, warts and all? Biography — a genre in which I must declare an interest. The living are protected by the laws of libel and defamation, the dead by their executors and the laws of copyright, and both by rival biographers rushing in with a different view. You can be sure that by the time it takes to get a book out, a decent time interval will have elapsed.

In any case, the Amises, dead and alive, can look after themselves. Come to that, probably so can the Jays.

Stiff upper lips: sold out

Alan Mitchell on the marketing drive to free Britain plc from its image of pomp and circumstance

In an age of supposed globalisation, where a product comes from ought not to matter. But like it or not, it does. Consumers believe that France is where good wines and perfumes come from, and they think Japan makes the best consumer electronics. So Elida Gibbs, the British toiletries company headquartered in Kingston upon Thames, recently changed its name to Elida Fabergé. Dioxons, meanwhile, sells its own-label electrical goods under the pseudo-Japanese name of Matsui.

Only last week the EC was pronouncing on which products, from feta cheese to champagne, could officially keep exclusive links with their place of origin. But if France stands for wine and perfume and Japan for consumer technology, what does Britain stand for? Burberry and Dunhill, the Royal Family, the Empire — in other words, tradition. Yet now, from the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry to the Labour Party, there is a growing belief that this may not be the best image of "Britishness".

"Our image has been left in a time warp," says Paul Southgate, chief executive of Wickens Turt Southgate, a brand identity firm. "There is a need, if Britain is not to become the world's 'Ye Olde Gifte Shoppe', to inject a sense of dynamism and modernity."

Peter Cheney, secretary of the British Council, agrees. He says there is a view in government circles that "Britain's image is impeding the promotion of British assets".

Marketers in every part of British industry are already having to grapple with the issue. British Airways, British Gas and BT, for instance, have all had to decide whether to keep the tag "British".

Rover deliberately sells Britishness in all its brands, says Ian Strachan, corporate communications director. Land Rover, for example, plays up its associations with the monarchy. But he adds: "The problem we have is that it is difficult to sell technologically advanced products on that basis."

Likewise the British Tourist Authority, which has long traded on Britain's imperial past, recently found that young Europeans and Americans increasingly see a visit to Britain as more like an educational exchange than an exciting holiday. As a result it is now beginning to promote Britain's pop music, fashion and design, and the vibrancy of the London club culture.



Flying the flag: BA, Land Rover and designer Paul Smith all market the "Britishness" of their products

Even arch-purveyors of British tradition such as the Dorchester hotel, Holland & Holland guns, Mulberry, Penhaligon, *Harpers & Queen* and Daks Simpson are becoming concerned about the negative implications of too much heritage. In 1992 they formed the Walpole Committee to promote British excellence and quality. Jeremy Franks, its chairman (who is also chief executive of Daks Simpson), says: "Yesterday's innovation is today's tradition because it was successful. But if we rely on the past too much, we will become boring and outdated."

The trouble, says Anne Elwes, planning director of the advertising agency BMP, is that while brands such as Dunhill and Fortnum & Mason make a big play of British quality, authenticity and craftsmanship, "what they are actually selling is the class system". And that, she adds, inevitably creates an aura of snobishness.

So what alternatives to that image are there, if any? Britain's role as a leader in scientific research and academic excellence and as a world

financial, media and communications centre belies the cliché of a faded post-imperial decline, declares Sir Martin Jacoby, British Council chairman.

Some British qualities, such as a sense of perspective, balance, human dignity and politeness, remain admired around the world, notes Dave Allen of identity consultants Sampson Tyrrell. Britain's success in the performing arts, design and advertising proves it could play up its creativity and originality, adds Ms Elwes. Paul Smith, the fashion designer, already makes his profits selling a new Britishness abroad: he has 147 shops in Japan.

Research for a British corporation in the US and Japan has, meanwhile, uncovered a potential "gold mine", says Mark Sherrington of Added Value marketing consultants. There is a lasting admiration for British inventiveness and problem-solving, which, he suggests, British service companies could use to differentiate themselves from the "have a nice day" American

approach and the Asian "how low can you bow" style.

Geoff Mulgan, of the independent think-tank Demos, agrees that Britain is under pressure to reinvent its national image. But as all good identity consultants will tell you, the best corporate identity expresses the fundamental spirit of the entity. And the truth is, we Brits are having an identity crisis. The future of the monarchy and the Union. The Irish question. Our relationship with America and with Europe. The state of the economy. These all pose fundamental questions about our past and future. Post-Thatcher, "people aren't sure which parts of our heritage to be proud of", says Mr Mulgan. "What we need is a new set of brand symbols," says Mr Southgate.

What? Abolish the Union Jack and God Save the Queen? As Mr Mulgan points out, both are inextricably linked to our current constitutional arrangements. Giving Britain plc a marketing and image makeover may not be as easy as it seems.

Alexandra Frean on the Harrods chief's ambitions

Al Fayed eyes Observer as base for new media empire

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, has raised the stakes in his long-running battle to become accepted by the British Establishment. Foiled at every turn in his attempts to buy into the media with offers for London News Radio, Today, the *Daily Express* and *The Observer*, he has created his own media empire from scratch. It is to be called Liberty Publishing and its first project will be its much-publicised resurrection of *Punch* under the editorship of Peter McKay.

But Mr Al Fayed does not intend to stop there. Although he has ditched plans to launch a mid-market Sunday newspaper, Liberty Publishing is offering "up to £20 million" to buy *The Observer* from the Guardian Media Group. The company has also said it would be prepared to consider buying up other fading print titles to revive them. In the longer term, it is considering expanding into radio, television and other media.

Mr Al Fayed is clearly anxious to avoid charges that he would use *The Observer* and any other media outlets as vehicles for his criticism of the Government for refusing to grant him British citizenship, or for his sleaze allegations against Tory MPs. As Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, says, the very name of his media company is symbolic. "He chose the name himself and thought it a very good omen when he discovered it was available... he wanted to show that the company was not a branch of Harrods."

Mr Al Fayed has hired two heavyweights to front Liberty. Stewart Stevenson, former editor of *The Evening Standard*, is chairman and John Dux, managing director from 1990 to 1995 of News International, owner of *The Times*, is general manager.

Mr Stevenson says he would not have become involved if he thought he was going to be subjected to heavy-handed proprietorial meddling. After 15 years as an editor, I was in the position of not having to work for the rest of my life. I would simply not have been interested unless it was to produce really marvellous products... What we know

about the sort of proprietorial behaviour indulged in by Tiny Rowland when he owned *The Observer* is that the public won't accept it," he says.

Liberty's offer for *The Observer* comes with formal guarantees of editorial independence. There are promises too of "considerable" editorial budgets for both *Punch* (which cost Mr Al Fayed £500,000) and *The Observer* to ensure that their editors would not need to go running to their proprietor, cap in hand.

If Liberty were to acquire *The Observer* — its approaches have so far been rebuffed by the Guardian Media Group — it would target not the *Independent on Sunday* but *The Sunday Times*, which currently holds 49 per cent of the Sunday broadsheet market.

The company says it would attempt to match *The Sunday Times* in size, page for page, and would compete with it for book serialisation rights and the best writers.

While no one doubts that Mr Al Fayed has sufficient money to build up at least a mini media empire, many doubt whether he has what it takes to succeed. Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, believes that it would take at least ten years to get *The Observer's* circulation up to the levels of 800,000 or so it would need to take on *The Sunday Times*. "The question is not one of money, but one of time. Taking on *The Observer* is not a job for someone in his sixties."

Perhaps Mr Al Fayed's biggest problem, however, will be the prejudice against him, not merely from the Government, but from all levels of the media. As another veteran former Fleet Street editor said: "He will need to recruit a large staff. Prejudice exists among a lot of journalists who would otherwise work for him."

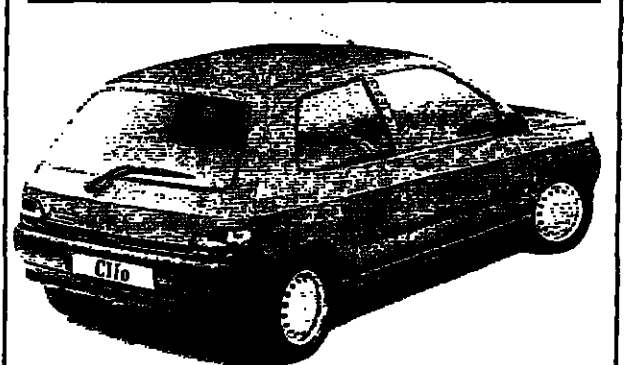


Steven: heavyweights



Al Fayed: no meddling

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The attraction of opposites

NEWS and current affairs programmes are more sensitive than most shows to what is on the other side of what is scheduled around them. Alexandra Frean writes.

BBC's Saturday evening news, which tops our chart with 12.8 million viewers, benefited greatly from its position after the popular drama serial *Casualty*.

BBC's *Here and Now*, at the bottom of our ratings chart with 4.5 million viewers, habitually suffers from being scheduled opposite the ITV soap *Coronation Street*. On March 6, however, when *Street* was moved to make way for football on ITV, *Here and Now's* audi-

ence rocketed to a record 9.2 million.

Although ITN's *News at Ten* and BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* are level pegging in our chart, *News at Ten's* average nightly audience for the whole of 1995 was 6.6 million compared to 5.7 million for the *Nine O'Clock News*.

THE TIMES TOP 20: NEWS AND DOCUMENTARIES

February 19 to 25, 1996

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Audience (m)
1 News, Sport and Weather	Sat 24	20.57	BBC1	BBC	12.8
2 News and Weather	Sun 25	20.51	BBC1	BBC	11.5
3 Blues and Twos	Thu 22	20.32	ITV	Zenith North	10.9
4 Great Ormond Street	Tue 20	20.00	BBC1	BBC	8.7
5 Six O'Clock News	Mon 19	18.00	BBC1	BBC	8.3
6 News at Ten	Mon 19	22.02	ITV	ITN	8.2
7 Nine O'Clock News	Thu 22	21.00	BBC1	BBC	8.2
8 How Do They Do That?	Wed 21	20.01	BBC1	Reg Grundy Prods	7.7
9 Points of View	Wed 21	20.50	BBC1	BBC	7.4
10 Redcaps	Thu 22	22.21	BBC1	Mann Made Films	7.2
11 999 International Rescue	Tue 20	22.16	BBC1	BBC/WNET-Thirteen	7.2
12 Alien Empire	Thu 22	20.00	BBC1	BBC	6.9
13 Watchdog	Mon 19	19.31	ITV	ITN	6.6
14 Early Evening News	Mon 19	21.45	ITV	ITN	6.4
15 News	Sun 25	20.02	ITV	Granada	5.8
16 World in Action	Mon 19	21.33	BBC1	BBC	4.9
17 Panorama	Mon 19	21.01	CH44	Touch Prods	4.7
18 Island of Dreams	Mon 19	13.00	BBC1	BBC	4.7
19 Nine O'Clock News	Wed 21	19.30	BBC1	BBC	4.5
20 Here and Now					

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Brian MacArthur on the latest newspaper sales figures

Mail ready to 'crush' Express

Sir David English, Editor in Chief of the Mail group, has vowed to "crush" the *Sunday Express* if Sue Douglas, its new Editor, succeeds in pushing its sales within reach of *The Mail on Sunday*. He has no need to reach for his cheque book yet. Ms Douglas deserves sympathy. Sales of the *Sunday Express* have been sinking year by year for four decades. Simply to stop the slide would be an achievement. There are faint signs, moreover, that both she and Richard Addis, the new Editor of the *Daily Express*, are slowing down the rate of decline. Sales of the *Daily Express* dropped by only 950 last month, against a fall of 26,000 for the *Daily Mail*, and the *Sunday Express* lost only 6,700.

Year-on-year sales, however, show the uphill task facing Addis and Douglas. Sales of the *Daily Mail* are up by 281,000 (16 per cent) against a fall of 8,800 for the *Daily Express*. *The Mail on Sunday* is up by 188,000 (9.7 per cent) but the *Sunday Express* is down by 131,000 (9 per cent).

Meanwhile *The Sunday Times* outsold the *Sunday Express* for the second month

running and recorded a sale of more than 1.3 million for the first time since September 1989, when the short-lived *Sunday Correspondent* was launched (followed by the *Independent on Sunday*).

Year-on-year increases are also being recorded by *The Times* (which hit a new record last month and outsold *The Guardian* and *The Independent* combined), the *FT*, *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Star*. Sales of *The Daily Telegraph* were at their lowest since the cover price was reduced in June 1994 and — sold at full price — fell below a million a day for the first time since then.

Broadsheet sales on weekdays and Sundays were up on a year ago while tabloids were down by more than 300,000.

FEBRUARY GAINS AND LOSSES

Daily titles	Av daily sale	Compared with Feb 95	%
The Sun	4,073,801	-51,781	-1.26
Daily Mirror	2,514,427	+51,044	+2.07
Daily Star	729,885	+5,574	+0.74
Daily Express	1,285,016	-8,808	-0.69
Daily Mail	2,036,719	+261,270	+13.00
The Times	888,205	+57,515	+6.52
The Daily Telegraph	1,027,882	-29,896	-2.93
The Guardian	402,214	-1,191	-0.30
The Independent	285,809	-4,309	-1.49
Financial Times	308,556	+17,282	+5.56
Sunday titles			
News of the World	4,656,718	-192,263	-4.12
The People	2,028,115	-48,110	-2.32
Sunday Mirror	2,423,032	-104,188	-4.12
Sunday Express	1,276,984	-131,345	-9.31
The Mail on Sunday	2,138,465	+188,900	+8.69
The Sunday Times	1,314,337	+52,134	+4.13
The Observer	1,481,957	-12,555	-0.85
The Sunday Telegraph	658,472	-3,412	-0.52
Independent on Sunday	312,068	-4,063	-1.29

Source: ABC

المجلس



ARTS 35-37

Can London be made a place fit for walkers?



HOMES 39

How to cope when a family splits up



SPORT 41-48

Bruno exudes new-found air of confidence

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 1996

Insurer starts talks with the DTI as bumper dividend is forecast

Prudential to share out surplus assets

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SHARES in Prudential Corporation surged 27p to 454p yesterday in anticipation of a bumper dividend after the insurer confirmed it had begun talks with the Department of Trade and Industry over redistributing assets surplus to its liabilities to policyholders.

Shareholders stand to benefit from such a distribution, either receiving increased dividends, or a one-off special dividend. The Prudential's six million policyholders may also benefit from a slice of the so-called "orphan" funds. However, the company refused to say whether policyholders would definitely share in the windfall.

The surplus assets of the Prudential, which is the highest name in personal pensions with a 9 per cent share of the market, are estimated at between £500 million and £5 billion. The Prudential would not specify a more exact figure.

Tomorrow 1.4 million Legal & General with-profits policyholders, who were initially omitted from plans to redistribute surplus funds, will learn more about the £160 million special bonus they are to share from the surplus on the long-term fund when year-end results are announced.

L&G's 38,860 shareholders will also hear more about their £115 million payout.

Like other insurers, the Prudential has amassed large reserves over the years because profits from investment have exceeded the actual payouts given to policyholders, and the maximum man-

agement fee has not always been charged to the life fund. The official announcement comes after months of speculation that the company would try to free these funds.

Peter Davis, the Prudential's new chief executive, said yesterday it was "far too early" to say how shareholders or policyholders would benefit, and said talks with the DTI would take at least 12 months.

Some analysts suggested £4 billion might be apportioned to shareholders, which would result in a dividend of more than ten times the current annual payout.

More conservative estimates put the surplus at £2

ers. But the Prudential will not necessarily use the same formula. Actuaries believe the Prudential negotiations will be more legally complex because it has been writing business for longer than L&G.

As the Prudential unveiled better than expected full year 1995 results yesterday, its new chief executive, Peter Davis, confirmed he had been "in preliminary talks with an unspecified number of life companies" and was also interested in acquiring a building society.

Possible purchases might include the Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester building societies. The Prudential would move before the societies reach the stock market sometime in 1997. Other possible targets include the mutual life offices, such as Scottish Amicable, Scottish Widows, or Clerical Medical — which has already indicated it is looking for a buyer.

The Prudential has already spent £20 million this year setting up a banking arm.

Mr Davis announced a 16 per cent increase in operating profit to £804 million (£693m restated), with the biggest contribution coming from Jackson National Life the US subsidiary, which made a profit of £241 million, up £87 million, compared with a slight decline in profits from Prudential UK from £381 million to £350 million.

Operating earnings per share rose 9 per cent to 28.7p, while the total dividend was increased by 9 per cent to 15.7p per share.



Peter Davis, Prudential chief executive, left, and Jonathan Bloomer, finance director

Bradford & Bingley rate at 35-year low

By ROBERT MILLER

BRADFORD & BINGLEY yesterday cut its home loan rate to a 35-year low, further fuelling the cut-throat nature of the £400 billion mortgage market. The last time borrowers paid such a low rate was in August 1960.

Britain's fifth-largest building society denied accusations from rivals that its move was a marketing ploy. A spokesman said that, unlike banks and other societies which were soon to become stock market companies, Bradford & Bingley's new standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent, compared with an industry average of 7.25 per cent, was "a sustainable, long-term commitment".

Of the mainstream bank and building society lenders, only Nationwide Building Society, which last month announced that it would give back to savers and borrowers half of its annual £400 million profit, is comparable with the new Bradford & Bingley rate.

The Halifax, the UK's largest lender, with some 2.3 million borrowers, said: "We still feel that our mortgage rate of 7.25 per cent is appropriate against a bank base rate of 6 per cent, and of course we do offer substantial discounts, such as a 6.1 per cent discount for one year. However, we always keep our rates under review."

The most competitive rates on offer are being promoted by the telephone-based lenders such as Bradford & Bingley Direct, at 5.99 per cent, and Direct Line, a subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland, at 6.25 per cent. A spokeswoman for Direct Line said that it had taken 15,000 calls in the past week alone.

As the market gears up for the traditional Easter weekend start to the house-buying season, competition to lend money to buyers is likely to become even more intense.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3639.5	(-35.0)
FT-SE 100 share	1810.03	(-10.80)
Nikkei	19960.27	(+153.98)
Dow Jones	6526.45	(-54.55)
S&P Composite	633.56	(-4.48)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.25%	(5.25%)
Long Bond	30.24%	(31.2%)
Yield	6.71%	(6.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
Libor long	10.5%	(10.5%)
future (Mar)	10.5%	(10.5%)

STERLING

New York	1.5215	(1.5244)
London	1.5198	(1.5243)
DM	2.2204	(2.2258)
FF	7.7023	(7.7258)
Sfr	1.8225	(1.8278)
Yen	160.56	(160.13)
£ index	63.2	(63.6)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

London	1.4770	(1.4822)
DM	6.0004	(6.0725)
FF	1.1971	(1.2011)
Yen	105.04	(105.50)
£ index	68.7	(68.7)

MONTHLY DATA

Brent 15-day (May)	\$17.85	(\$17.55)
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COMMODITIES

London close	\$398.10	(\$398.15)
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* denotes midday trading price

Volatile day on markets

The FT-SE 100 index fell 35.0 points to close at 3,639.5 after an opening fall on Wall Street upset the London market. By late afternoon in London the Dow had fallen 95 points but by mid afternoon in New York it was down just 39.74 points at 3,541.29.

It was the third successive day of volatile trading in New York. Fast reading hopes of lower interest rates sent the Dow crashing 171 points on Friday night before an equally surprising recovery of 110 points on Monday.

Page 28, Anthony Harris, 29

Hanson finishes sell-off in US

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON yesterday completed its £1.9 billion US asset disposal programme with the £1 billion sale of the remainder of Cavenham, its forest industries subsidiary, to Williams, an American group.

The news was welcomed by the City which has been keen to see Hanson substantially reduce its debt pile ahead of the company's break-up. Hanson shares closed up 2½p at 192p.

Hanson has now disposed of about £1.9 billion worth of assets since the start of the year. Last month, Hanson completed the £510 million float of Suburban Propane on the New York Stock Exchange.

William Landuyt, chief executive of Hanson Industries, said: "These sales have placed us well ahead of schedule on our £2 billion disposal programme. The net cash proceeds will reduce cash and

gearing substantially." Hanson announced its intention to dispose of about £2 billion worth of assets at the end of last year to help to reduce debt after the £2.5 billion purchase of Eastern Group. Hanson still has to sell its 12.5 per cent National Grid stake, inherited with the Eastern acquisition, which is expected to raise a further £400 million.

Hanson shares slumped after the announcement of the demerger plans as worries grew about the tax, debt and dividend consequences. In the past few weeks, the price has climbed as bid rumours circulated around subsidiaries Imperial Tobacco and Eastern, and the company suggested that the tax consequences would not be as bad as the market feared.

Tempus, page 28

Barclays to axe 500 regional jobs

BARCLAYS is to cut 500 jobs in its 12 regional offices in England and Wales this year, about a quarter of the staff employed there (Patricia Teban writes).

Bifu, the banking and finance union, condemned the move.

Rob MacGregor, assistant secretary, said: "These cuts are ill thought out. It's just more cost cutting and it will mean less support for the high street branches." He also criticised the bank for refusing to rule out compulsory redundancies.

However, a spokesman for Barclays said that the cuts were part of the increased impact of new technology and trying to ensure that the more centralised jobs were done as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

The bank said that no jobs would go from the Scottish office.

Liffe gears up for monetary union

By GEORGE SIVELL

LIFFE, the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, revealed that it would alter contracts for the possible start of European monetary union. The announcement came as part of London efforts to capture the market in the new euro currency.

But the news came just minutes before John Major declared that "there are circumstances in which it might be appropriate to have a referendum on the particular matter of whether this country should decide to join a single currency".

Liffe is due to list euromark contracts for delivery in March 1999 next week in addition to the short sterling future for delivery in March 1999.

After January 1, 1999, countries participating in European monetary union will run their national currencies in

parallel with the euro at a fixed exchange rate. Liffe, however, expects that interest rates on euros and national currencies may differ because of varying demand, largely because big business will make a dash for euros.

If the interest rates differ Liffe made it clear yesterday that it would settle the contracts against euro rates. Liffe said that "if EMU is delayed or if a particular country is not a full participant, the relevant contracts will settle as now".

Last week, Matif, the French futures and options exchange, said the French franc three-month Libor rate, used to settle Libor futures contracts, would become a euro three-month Libor rate. Liffe said that it would use as a reference for contracts the British Bankers Association interest settlement rate for euro deposits.

Cordiant boardroom battle costs £20m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE cost of Cordiant's turbulent past year emerged yesterday as the advertising group announced a full year pre-tax loss of £22.6 million.

The company, formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, was thrown into turmoil early last year by bitter boardroom in-fighting that led to the ousting of Maurice Saatchi, the founder, and the loss of several key accounts to rival advertising groups.

Cordiant has been forced to write-off exceptional costs totalling £20.3 million, including £3.3 million in compensation to the departing top executives and £17 million in reorganisation and general



Bob Seelert, of Cordiant, yesterday drew curtain on past

severance costs. The company also incurred a net loss of £30 million on disposals last year. But Bob Seelert, chief executive, said: "This draws the

strong growth in advertising revenues and that the company would be in a position to pay a final dividend this year.

Cordiant emphasised that the £133 million rights issue last year had helped to restore financial stability and that new business had restored revenues to the 1994 level. New business included Bell Atlantic, which was the largest single account the company has won in the past five years, plus the Halifax, Hewlett Packard and Kodak accounts.

Turnover, excluding foreign exchange and disposals, increased 2.1 per cent to £761 million, while profits excluding exceptional items and disposals, were flat at £32 million. Trading margins in-

creased from 5.7 to 6.4 per cent. Cordiant added that it was aiming to achieve margins of 10 per cent by 1998.

Revenue was hardest hit in New York, falling 15.2 per cent to £267 million, after the company lost the Mars account. Revenue also fell slightly to £112 million in the UK, but grew 14 per cent to £232 million in the rest of Europe and by 5 per cent to £150 million in the rest of the world.

The company said it hoped to achieve the margin performance by further cost control measures but primarily by benefiting from the predicted increase in revenues over the next few years.

Pennington, page 27

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Sharp rise in BASF profits

BASF, one of Germany's three largest chemical groups, reported a sharp recovery in profits to DM2.47 billion (£1.1 billion) in 1995, up 92 per cent from DM1.28 billion in 1994. Group sales increased 5.9 per cent to DM46.2 billion from DM43.7 billion. A divisional breakdown is expected later this month. The company also announced it would raise its regular annual dividend by 40 per cent to DM14 from DM10.

Britton up

Profits at Britton Group, the folding cartons and packaging company, rose to £19.3 million before tax in 1995 from £10.7 million in the previous year. Turnover improved to £303.8 million from £213.4 million. Capital expenditure was £27 million and earnings advanced to 10.18p a share from 7.45p. The final dividend of 1.8p a share, payable May 28, lifts the total to 3p from 2.5p. Shares rose 1p to 155p.

Disney delight

Buoyed by its dramatic recovery from the brink of bankruptcy, Euro Disney, which operates Disneyland Paris, is on course for a smooth ride to a "satisfying" second quarter. Philippe Bourguignon, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting in Paris yesterday. The company's shares rose 3p to 182p.

Peru brew

Inchcape, the UK international services and marketing group, is paying £2 million for a 25.01 per cent stake in Peru's largest Coca-Cola bottling company, Embotelladora Latinoamericana SA. The investment will be made in two cash tranches of £1.54 million and £6.6 million.

Former adviser to Asil Nadir denies laundering money

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Serious Fraud Office was "barking up the wrong tree" in suggesting that a former adviser to Asil Nadir was guilty of handling stolen funds, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. Elizabeth Forsyth was never a signatory to the accounts of Polly Peck International (PPI), contrary to the evidence of an officer of SG Warburg Solicitors in Switzerland. The error was an "entirely honest" one, but it seemed to have led the police and the SFO on "quite a merry dance".

Geoffrey Robertson, QC.

was opening the defence case for Mrs Forsyth, 59, who denies handling nearly £400,000 in funds allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from PPI. At no time had Mrs Forsyth pretended to be a PPI signatory. Neither had she "carried this large sum of money around Geneva for several days as though she was some sort of money launderer".

Mr Robertson said Mrs Forsyth was used to carrying large sums of cash, thanks to her former job as a banker advising Middle Eastern royals. On her visit to Switzer-

land in October 1989, she had not kept the £400,000 "stashed in a suitcase under her bed" or carried it around Geneva in the traffic. Instead, it had been kept in a safe, protected by a modern security system.

The Crown's central allegation, the court heard, was that Mrs Forsyth had laundered the money by collecting it from one bank in Geneva, and sending it back to the UK by way of another. Mr Robertson said: "If she's a launderer, she's not much of a washerwoman, because she leaves her name all over the shirts." The impres-

sion, he said, was of someone "blundering into banks for the first time" and referring to a criminal transaction back to her own bank in the UK. Mrs Forsyth had "acted quite openly, leaving her signature and her name on every stage of the transaction".

The payment of £400,000 had been recorded in the PPI accounts as a transfer to Unipac, a subsidiary in northern Cyprus. The unanswered "big question" was whether there was any matching credit in the books of Unipac.

Mrs Forsyth then began to

give evidence. She told the jury about her early years advising wealthy foreigners on their banking affairs. Mr Nadir, one of her clients at Citibank, had inherited "substantial amounts of wealth" on the death of his father in 1986, and his tax position was becoming problematic. Mrs Forsyth agreed to run his private office, and liaise between accountants and the Nadir family trusts.

She told the jury that Mr Nadir had hoped to take PPI back into private hands. The trial continues today.

TI faces growing challenge

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TI GROUP, the engineering and aerospace group, struck a note of caution yesterday as it reported a strong performance for 1995.

The company, which lifted annual pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £184.8 million, said the current year was likely to prove more of a challenge. Brian Walsh, vice chairman and finance director, blamed generally subdued economies rather than particular obstacles facing TI's businesses. The group is heavily exposed to the automotive industry, where recovery is likely to be slow.

TI was upbeat about the aircraft market and Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman, said he was confident of an upturn as airline profitability was restored. Order books across the divisions are up by 20-25 per cent, Sir Christopher said. A final dividend of 8.75p is due on May 29, lifting the total 9 pence to 13.1p.

Tempus, page 28



Sir Christopher Lewinton said order books across the divisions were up 20-25 per cent

European expansion for Daewoo

By ROSS TIEMAN

DAEWOO Electronics is to invest up to \$2 billion in washing machine, refrigerator and components plants to try to capture a hefty share of the European market.

Britain has been identified as a possible location for plants manufacturing washing machines and compressors, industrial motors and magnetrons for microwave ovens. JB Chun, managing director of Daewoo Electronics Europe, said: "These are all products that we are considering seriously."

The company has already established a washing machine plant in Poland, and is poised to announce its first refrigerator factory at Bilbao in Spain. The Korean group already manufactures video recorders and components at Antrim, Northern Ireland, and is one of the continent's leading manufacturers of microwave ovens.

Chill wind, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Construction orders surge by 16%

THE construction industry received a boost yesterday as data revealed that orders in the three months to the end of January had risen by 16 per cent on the previous three months. The increase resulted from strong demand for commercial and non-housing work, with private commercial orders for the three months up 74 per cent on the same period last year.

The recovery remains patchy, however. Homebuilders continued to suffer, with orders unchanged on the previous three months and 16 per cent lower than a year before. Public housing orders fell 24 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Infrastructure orders were down 19 per cent on the previous three months. But the figures were generally welcomed by industry organisations, who believe that the sector's recovery can now be sustained. Richard Houghton, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said: "Coupled with the latest interest rate cut, the outlook for 1996 is encouraging." The total value of new orders was £1.94 billion.

Yorkshire TV confident

YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION does not expect a bid from Granada, which last month raised its stake in the ITV company to almost 25 per cent from 14 per cent at a cost of £52 million. Ward Thomas, chairman of Yorkshire, said Granada is more interested in integrating Forte, which it bought in January for £3.9 billion, into its operations. Yorkshire reported 1995 pre-tax profits of £21.6 million (£11 million), with final dividend of 10.3p giving a total of 14p (4.8p).

Chemicals group suffers

MARGIN erosion, rising raw material prices and restructuring costs took a toll on Holliday Chemical Holdings, the specialty dyes and chemicals group that issued a profits warning in January. Pre-tax profits fell to £12.1 million in the year to December 31, from £19.3 million, on turnover of £158.5 million (£132.9 million). There was a £3.34 million exceptional charge. The final dividend is maintained at 3p, giving an unchanged total of 5p, from fully diluted earnings of 7.1p (13.9p) a share.

BCCI claims invited

LIQUIDATORS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have asked creditors to submit remaining claims by April 5 so that compensation can be paid. In an announcement in newspapers in Abu Dhabi, the central bank of the United Arab Emirates said it had transferred the receivership of the bank to three liquidators. Compensation payments to more than 250,000 creditors worldwide are expected to start in the first half of 1996.

Charges hit Crestacare

CRESTACARE, Britain's third-largest nursing home company, made pre-tax profits of £2.9 million for 1995, against £6 million in the previous year, after a £2.2 million exceptional charge and depreciation charges of £1.4 million on freehold buildings. Turnover was £43 million, up 18 per cent. Earnings per share were 0.9p, against 2.6p. Last year marked the first time that Crestacare took such depreciation charges. A 0.59p final dividend, due on May 16, makes 0.88p (0.79p).

Kalon in the red

KALON GROUP, which last June became Europe's second-largest decorative paint maker after a merger with Euridip of France, was dragged into the red by a £25.1 million reorganisation charge, higher raw material costs and margin erosion. Profits before tax and exceptional charges rose 12 per cent to £22.1 million in the year to December 31, but the reorganisation charge pushed Kalon to a pre-tax loss of £2.98 million. The final dividend is raised to 3.2p, making 14.8p for the year.

Loss at Expamet

EXPAMET International, which supplies products for building and industrial applications, is maintaining the total dividend at 3p a share for 1995, with an unchanged final of 1.65p. Operating profits from continuing businesses rose 31 per cent to £6.4 million. At the pre-tax level there was a loss of £31.3 million, reflecting the write-off of goodwill associated with the company's security businesses, which were sold during the year. Profits in 1994 were £5.8 million before tax.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	13.81	13.41
Belgium Fr	48.49	45.19
Canada \$	2.187	2.027
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	6.35	6.55
Finland Mk	7.58	6.53
France Fr	6.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	324.00	365.00
Hong Kong \$	12.02	11.92
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel NIS	19.00	4.70
Japan Yen	2495.00	2331.00
South Korea W	157.00	159.10
Malta	0.591	0.638
Netherlands Gld	2.894	2.894
New Zealand \$	2.238	2.161
Norway Kr	4.42	6.82
Portugal Esc	204.00	226.50
Spain Ptas	16.50	16.50
Singapore S	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	11.02	10.22
Switzerland Fr	1.75	1.75
Turkey Lira	107375	96925
USA \$	1.621	1.491

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

NIE to receive £60m government subsidy

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE FIRST government subsidy of the privatised electricity industry will start in July when Northern Ireland Electricity uses part of a £15 million support package for this year to curb prices, currently the highest in the UK.

The Government will feed £60 million into the province over three years to part-pay generation costs which, largely because of Northern Ireland's isolated position, are high and drive up electricity costs to the consumer.

Dr Patrick Haren, chief executive of NIE, said: "This is not like some of the conven-

tional state aid to industry. It is to the benefit of all consumers."

NIE, which will use the money through a separate electricity buying operation to pay its generation bills, has said it will now keep price rises to 2.3 per cent. The company is also working on an energy efficiency scheme, into which it will pump just under £1 million.

The regulatory review for NIE, which is controlled separately, is scheduled for the summer when pricing controls will be determined to take effect from April next year.

American sales boost fine art auctioneer

Lots of profit at Christie's

By PATRICIA TEHAN

CHRISTIE'S International, the fine art auctioneer, enjoyed a 32 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year to £21.5 million after an increase in auction sales, particularly in America.

Total auction sales were £914 million, a rise of 14 per cent, with the number of lots sold increasing by 10 per cent.

The biggest contribution to the growth in sales came from impressionist and modern pictures, where sales were 67 per cent higher as a result of strong demand for several

"very fine collections" that were put up for sale. The jewellery sales were also strong.

Highlights of the year included the sale of modern pictures and other works of art from the collection of Mr and Mrs Ralph Colin, which totalled \$42.7 million, and the sale of jewels from the personal collection of Princess Salimah Aga Khan, which raised £17 million.

Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman, said he was confident about the long-term prospects

for the company given the steady growth of the art market over the last few years and the increasing demand from buyers, but he said: "The short-term prospects for sales depend on the extent to which major collections become available for sale."

The final dividend payment of 2.15p is due on May 30, making a total for the year of 2.8p, against 2.1p in 1994.

Sir Anthony steps down in May, to be replaced by Lord Hindlip, who has been with Christie's for 33 years.

CMG ahead of float forecast

CMG, the European information technology company that secured a share listing in London in November 1995, earned profits of £20.1 million before tax in 1995, a 38 per cent increase over 1994 and ahead of the floatation forecast. Earnings were 21p a share, rising from 14.8p. There is a maiden final dividend of 3.2p a share, due May 28. The shares rose 1p to 455p.

Push by Parity

Parity, the information technology group, will seek further expansion in Europe to build on the three companies in Germany and France acquired in November. The company reported a rise in profits to £6.5 million before tax in 1995 (£4.2 million). Earnings were 10.3p a share (7.2p). There is a final dividend of 1.5p a share, making 2.5p for the year (1.75p).

Spandex up

Profits at Spandex, the supplier to the European sign-making industry, rose 20 per cent to £8.5 million before tax in 1995 following a 25 per cent rise in turnover to £85.8 million. The total dividend is increased 14 per cent to 2.85p a share, with a 1.85p final due July 15. The shares, on the USM, rose 3p to 368p.

Orange offer

Orange, the mobile phone company that is to float late this month, said that about 100,000 individuals have registered for the share offer. The minimum investment from individuals has been set at £1,000, and Orange warned that investors may not receive all the shares they want.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

LLOYDS BANK BASE RATE

Effective from 8 March 1996 6.00% per annum

LOANS

	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
Business Loan Standard and Farm Business Loan Standard	0.96	11.52
Business Loan Preferential and Farm Business Loan Preferential	0.79	9.48
Small Business Loan Standard	1.06	12.72 (APR 13.4)*
Small Business Loan and Farm Small Business Loan	0.96	11.52 (APR 12.1)*

*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/ securities charges/monthly interest which may be applicable).

INTEREST EARNING ACCOUNTS

Premier Interest Account†	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	4.90	4.91
£100,000+	4.55	4.65
£25,000+	4.10	4.18
£10,000+	3.80	3.87
Business Reserve Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£10,000+	3.70	3.75
Below £10,000	3.50	3.55
Business Call Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	3.40	3.45
£50,000+	3.10	3.14
£10,000+	2.90	2.94
£1,000+	2.60	2.63
Below £1,000	2.20	2.22

†No interest is paid on balances below £10,000.

OVERDRAFTS

Band	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A (and Standard)	0.93	11.16
B	0.84	10.08
C	0.76	9.12
Unauthorised	2.00	24.00

MORTGAGES

Band	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A	0.96	11.52
B and C	0.79	9.48

Clients Call Account	Half Yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£1,000,000+	4.10	4.14	4.07	4.15
£500,000+	3.85	3.89	3.82	3.89
£100,000+	3.35	3.38	3.33	3.38
£25,000+	2.80	2.82	2.78	2.82
Below £25,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Deposit Account	Half Yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£1+	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

Interest rates may vary from time to time. The index rate is the current rate. Gross Rate - the annual interest rate. Gross CAR - compounded annual rate where half monthly, quarterly or half yearly interest remains invested. Business Reserve Account and Premier Interest Account - some interest paid monthly. Business Call Account - interest paid quarterly.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 13 March 1996

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□ Best policy at the Pru □ Employment agencies gain from flexible working □ Admen back on the straight and narrow

A division of the spoils

IF PRECEDENT is followed, then yesterday's excitement on the stock market over the discovery of up to £5 billion lying around at the Pru's palatial offices at Holborn Bars was distinctly overplayed. But with that much cash at stake, that is a big if.

Last year the same awful problem, an embarrassing overabundance of the ready, cropped up at several other life companies, most significantly Legal & General. In a landmark case, the insurer went to the Department of Trade and Industry for a ruling on what to do with surpluses on its with-profits fund.

The L&G was nervously eyeing Allianz, the German insurer that was supposed, according to rumours of the time, to be considering a takeover. There was good reason to keep shareholders sweet, by slipping some of the cash to them in higher dividends rather than using it to boost bonuses for policyholders, or even keeping it in reserves against a rainy day or a tumble on the stock market. Another day, another rumour: L&G now is supposed to be on NatWest's hit-list.

There emerged at L&G a champion of the policyholders, in the form of Sir John Nott, formerly the microphone-throving defence secretary, now chairman of the food combine

Hilldown Holdings and a one-time head of Lazard Brothers. Sir John had two of the insurer's policies and thought, quite reasonably, that policyholders who had put their cash in its hands to invest with profits should keep the same, or at least most of it.

It is hard to disagree with him. What is being argued about is the extent that investments whose value has expanded beyond what is required to provide for the "reasonable expectations" of their owners should stay with the same. But a life policy is not like a bet on the 4.45 at Sandown; it is not a fixed payout but the result of decades of investment.

The DTI took to a clear 90:10 split that gave shareholders the smallest slice, following earlier precedent. The situation is complicated because the exact source of the L&G surplus and the Prudential's "orphan assets" is different, and the company would seem to have a better claim. The principle is the same.

The Pru's Peter Davis will not speculate over what the assets are worth, nor where they should end up. This is because he has

his own designs on what cash comes the Pru's way. The company, like anyone else in financial services with enough clout, is considering a UK life insurer, and some talks have already taken place.

If the best analysts' estimates about the value of the orphan assets are correct, and if the Pru is required to settle for 10 per cent, then this offers £500 million towards any such purchase. Alternatively, it can be used to enhance dividends to shareholders. Either way, everybody gains — including the policyholders whose funds were invested in the first place.

Job uncertainty, profits certainty

IF EUROPE does eventually manage to export a 48-hour working week to Britain, this will only accelerate the move towards so-called "flexible employment", and part-time or contract workers. The losers will be full-timers, forced into less secure or worse-paid jobs; but this is no bad news for those companies providing

PENNINGTON



the new breed of workers. In the States, despite signs of economic growth, the downsizing has not stopped and job losses among middle managers continue. Corporate America is turning more and more towards temporary staff, both clerical and further up the management chain, even up to lawyers and accountants. As a result, companies such as Olsen and Manpower, which both came out with good fourth-quarter figures recently, have seen their shares rise by as much as a fifth over the past year.

The employment sector in Britain has been under its own shadow: Blue Arrow and the fall-out from over-enthusiastic expansion that put a hiatus in a

few City careers along with that of its founder, Tony Berry.

Most employment agencies now tend to operate under the umbrella of rather larger people-oriented businesses, such as Hays, whose own business specialising in professionals reported profits up by a third last week, or bid-stricken BET. There are a few freestanders — USM-quoted Select Appointments for one, a firm now back into the black after its own traumas, or Reed Executive.

Traditionally, part-time hirings increase during recession, while recovery spurs the employment of more full-timers. This time out of recession the pattern has not been repeated, employers even in Britain expanding by hiring disposable part-timers, so saving on employment costs and expensive redundancy payments if it all goes wrong again.

Meanwhile, continental businesses already locked into the social chapter and even more rigid job laws have their own compelling reasons to turn to non-permanent staff. The result must be further consolidation

within a small industry that is still fragmented, and further growth all round. But do mind out for the next Blue Arrow.

Après le déluge at Cordiant

ONE would have thought the best creative minds at Cordiant, né Saatchi & Saatchi, could have thought of a better word for last year than watershed. It was more like Niagara Falls, and Cordiant went over it in a barrel.

The result was the kitchen sink job that was Cordiant's 1995 figures, and a keenness to draw a lead-lined fire curtain over the past. Yet the company exited the year in reasonable state, with revenues up 2.1 per cent, despite the loss of BA, Mars, Dixons and the rest, and trading margins that actually improved from 5.7 per cent in 1994, before the departure of the Saatchi brothers and their entourage.

Cordiant is now also debt-free, thanks to the £133 million its shareholders put up late last year. The share price looks wedged above a pound, and

there is the promise of a dividend payment this year that even if only nominal will help market sentiment.

The board, led by the new chief executive Bob Seelert, has pledged to get to 10 per cent margins by 1998. If the company matches the 8 per cent or so annual growth in advertising revenues being forecast by media pundits such as Zenith, then profits of £60 million are achievable by next year, the sort of level that would justify, on any normal multiple, the current share price. That would put the final seal on Cordiant's return to respectability.

Down to brass tax

IF THE British public were to invest, in total, £100 million in the National Lottery, and were to reinvest the winnings for 12 weeks, how much would be left? Just £28.17, says Tim Congdon, writing in the journal of the Institute of Economic Affairs. He calls, probably tongue in cheek, for the lottery to be taken to the Serious Fraud Office, or at least the Securities and Futures Authority as a mis-sold investment. At the end of the day, says Mr Congdon, the lottery is "disguised taxation". Yet should the IEA, like all good free marketeers, not be in favour of indirect, nay voluntary taxation?

Williams to expand its global empire

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

WILLIAMS HOLDINGS, the diversified industrial company, said yesterday that it is aiming to expand its global presence through a series of acquisitions in its core fire protection, security and building products divisions.

Roger Carr, chief executive, said: "We are considering acquisitions for all of our key areas, and believe that there are plenty of opportunities for expansion."

Mr Carr also predicted a less gloomy future for its building products division, saying that while the market would initially remain weak in Europe, the outlook in the United States is improving. He added that demand for fire protection and security products remains firm.

Williams unveiled a 14 per cent rise in full-year profits to £228 million boosted by a strong performance from its fire protection division, and a £9.1 million exceptional profit

from the flotation of its engineering subsidiary Cortworth. Overall, turnover grew 14.7 per cent to £1.6 billion, while the total dividend was increased 5.6 per cent to 14.25p a share.

But the shares fell 6p to 325p as the market remained worried by the poor housing market in the UK. The fire protection division increased profits 29 per cent to £76 million while the security businesses, including Yale, the lock manufacturer, increased profits 6 per cent to £37.6 million. But the building products division suffered from the weak US and UK housing markets and profits dropped 4 per cent to £120 million.

Capital expenditure was increased by 32 per cent to £51.5 million while gearing was 18.7 per cent. A final dividend of 8.75p (8.25p) is payable on May 15.

Tempus, page 28

Costs rise takes toll of Delta

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARPLY higher raw material costs and margin erosion in competitive UK conditions combined with restructuring costs to take a toll on full-year profits at Delta, the electric cables to engineering group.

An £11 million restructuring charge in its cables division, involving about 200 job losses, and higher interest costs cut Delta's pre-tax profits to £53.1 million (£65.1 million) in the year to December 30. Delta's cables business has been hit by oversupply and competitive trading conditions, compounded by higher raw material costs and depressed conditions.

Group turnover advanced 13 per cent to £1.02 billion. The total dividend is 18.9p (15.5p), boosted by a foreign income dividend of 14.4p (11.2p). Earnings fell to 20p (27.7p) a share. Delta plans to acquire the Southeastern Galvanizing Division of Reeves Corporation, of Florida, for \$9.7 million.

Thorntons issues new alert

By SARAH BAGNALL

THORNTONS, the chocolate maker and retailer, has issued its second profits warning in four months, blaming falling sales and the cost of its store refurbishment programme.

The shares fell 6p, to 135p. Roger Palford, the new chief executive, said: "We expect to break even at the operating-profit level in the second half, and, as a result, the full-year result will be significantly below last year's £10.2 million of operating profit before exceptional items."

As a result, Thorntons is expected to report a full-year operating profit of £7.6 million. The refurbishment programme is forecast to cost £900,000.

Thorntons saw pre-tax profits fall from £9.6 million to £7.6 million in the 28 weeks to January 6. Sales rose slightly to £59.2 million. The dividend, due on April 30, is held at 1.5p. The group said that it intended to maintain the final payment.

Wolseley shares slip after profit warning

By CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in Wolseley, the builders' merchant, slipped 12p, to 465p, after the company said that full-year profits will be below last year's level. Weak demand in the UK and the cost of shutting a manufacturing plant reduced pre-tax profits for the six months to January 31 from £117 million to £111 million.

Jeremy Lancaster, chairman, said that there were signs of an upturn in the housing market, but gave warning that it would arrive too late to affect second-half profits and that the Continent would remain difficult for the full calendar year.

In the year to July 31,

Wolseley made pre-tax profits of £245 million.

Cheap imports from the Far East are hurting the manufacturing division, whose profits fell from £25.5 million to £18.2 million. Wolseley is closing a factory, with the loss of 160 jobs, taking the cost in the half-year results.

Trading profit in UK building goods distribution was static, with little sign of revived consumer confidence, but Plumb Center continued its programme of branch openings.

The interim dividend rises to 3.1p, from 2.95p. Earnings per share were 13.42p (14.21p).

Tempus, page 28

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Mortgage war fears hit big bank shares

THE threat of an all-out mortgage war among the banks and building societies hung over the Square Mile like a cloud.

Shares of the big banks were left to bear a ragged retreat amid fears that profit margins were about to come under further pressure. The move followed the decision of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society to cut its variable mortgage rate and join Nationwide at 6.99 per cent.

Other banks are expected to follow their lead and cut rates, signalling a scramble for market shares in an already depressed housing market.

The move may eventually help to revive house prices. But yesterday it merely succeeded in depressing share prices of the big banks. Bank of Scotland fell 18p to 241½p, Abbey National 21p to 534p, Barclays 26p to 688p, National Westminster 28p to 616p, Royal Bank of Scotland 18p to 512p, and Lloyds TSB 15½p to 297p.

The outlook was made all the more depressing by the news that the Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest financial institution, was poised to move into the mortgage market. It coincided with full-year figures from the Pru showing pre-tax profits hit £1 billion last year, compared with £338 million. The company also excited City watchers by announcing it was in talks with the Department of Trade & Industry about orphan assets worth £5 billion. In spite of worse than expected bad weather claims, profits came in at the top end of expectations. The shares responded with a rise of 27p to 454p.

Elsewhere, the big City fund managers were finding it difficult to make money yesterday. Even the favourite felled to come up with the goods at the Championship Hurdles on the first day of the Cheltenham Festival.

Share prices spent another volatile session giving up early gains as the Dow Jones industrial average followed up Monday's rise of 111 points in resumed trading yesterday. The FT-SE 100 index suffered a 69.1 point turnaround to close near its low for the day with a fall of 35.0 to 3,639.5. The total number of shares traded was 728 million.

Profit-taking led Cable and Wireless 10p lower at 467p after Monday's sharp rise on



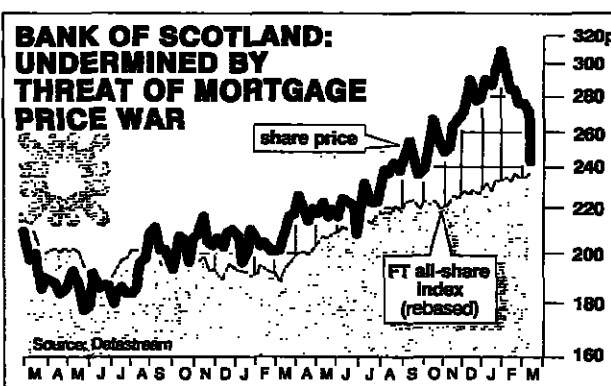
Gwyn Ward Thomas, Y-TTT chairman, flanked by Bruce Gyngell, chief executive, left, and Nick Castro, finance chief

confirmation that it had been in bid talks with BT, down 7p to 354½p. It seems that both sides had agreed a share swap so that BT would not be forced to make a £5 billion bid for the minority stake in Hong Kong Telecom. 57 per cent owned by C&W. But it seems the talks broke down earlier this month over the question of valuing C&W.

Henderson BP marked time at 531½p before a presentation for brokers later today at its London headquarters. It is expected to outline progress on Phase 3 of its re-organisation, which includes dividend policy. The group will give a briefing to brokers in New York later in the week. A total of five million shares were traded by the close.

Crosthwaite, the broker, has put a break-up value on C&W of 560p a share giving it a price tag of £12.4 billion.

Speculative buying continued to drive Yorkshire Electricity 25p higher at 795p as more than a million shares changed hands. There is still talk of a possible bid for the company from one of the big utility companies. A sharp jump in



after exceptional charges of £20 million and bank fees of £4 million. That compares with a profit the previous year of £32 million. Trading margins improved and the group expects to return to the dividend list in the current year.

The City appeared impressed with full-year figures from TI Group showing a 23 per cent leap in pre-tax profits

to £184.8 million. The shares added 6p to 486p. But Williams Holdings failed to live up to expectations, with brokers disappointed by the level of payout as the shares retreated 7p to 324p.

Full-year figures from Yorkshire-Tees Television were overshadowed by its attempt at playing down recent bid speculation. Last month, Granada increased its stake in the company to 24 per cent. But Gwyn Ward Thomas, chairman of Y-TTT, said that in spite of recent speculation he did not expect Granada to launch a full bid.

Last year saw Y-TTT increase pre-tax profits from £13 million to £21.6 million, with the payout leaping from 4.8p to 14p. The shares finished 2p easier at 98p.

Hanson formed 24 p to 192p as it continued to dispose of parts of the business before the proposed merger. It is selling the rest of Cavenham Forest Industries to Williams-Edwards Industries for \$1.6 billion. It is a better asking price than most brokers had been forecasting and raises the total value of disposals in recent weeks to £2.0 billion.

Capgem International, a Paris-based IT services company, plunged into the red with losses of £31.7 million, against a profit of £5.8 million last year. Mayflower, the specialist engineer, rose 24p to 98½p ahead of figures that are expected to show pre-tax profits up from £8.6 million to £13.3 million.

Worries about further falls facing US Treasury bonds undermined the London market, where prices drifted throughout the session. The worst falls were seen at the longer end although traders say that selling at the shorter end appears to have been overdone.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt dropped £15½ to £104½, with turnover levels reduced. By the close, a total of 56,000 contracts had been completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £9½ at 96½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £4 lower at £101½.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 54.55 points to 5,526.45 at midday as investors took profits after Monday's surge. The bond market remained under pressure.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 5526.45 (-54.55)

S&P Composite 633.56 (-4.64)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 19950.27 (-153.98)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 10002.45 (-205.00)

Amsterdam:

EEX Index 510.17 (+2.48)

Sydney:

DAX 2228.5 (+64.1)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2435.97 (+28.18)

Singapore:

General 2383.99 (+37.65)

Brussels:

General 8828.69 (+13.03)

Paris:

CAC 40 1932.07 (-16.82)

Zurich:

SIX Gen 752.10 (+3.38)

London:

FT 100 2729.9 (-17.0)

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TEMPUS Security by Williams

OWNERSHIP of shares in Williams Holdings has not been a cause for celebration in recent months. However, as befits a company that counts fire protection and Yale locks among its core businesses, it has adopted a safety-first policy, saving shareholders from the agonies suffered by investors in its main rivals.

The shares labour under the unfashionable diversified industrial tag and Williams' involvement in the depressed building market does not help the rating. The company is right to ignore nomenclature. It moved to divest itself of its non-core businesses long before "focus" became the business buzzword. The sector will soon be rid of the depressing "Hanson" effect, allowing investors to pay more attention to value than to name tags.

Building materials make up half of Williams' total turnover. The division held up

comparatively well last year, suffering only a small drop in profits, and is well placed to take advantage of the recovery in the US housing market and the long-awaited UK upturn.

The main thrust of Williams' expansion will be in new markets. With plenty of cash to spend, Williams can extend its successful fire protection and security brands further into Latin America and the Far East. The company accepts that emerging markets are volatile, but cautions expansion will be balanced by its mature markets in the West. Expected profits of £245 million next year put the company on a forward price/earnings multiple of just under 14. With a dividend yield of 4.5 per cent and enough cash generation to ensure plenty of future dividend growth, Williams looks a secure haven in a jittery share market.

Wolseley

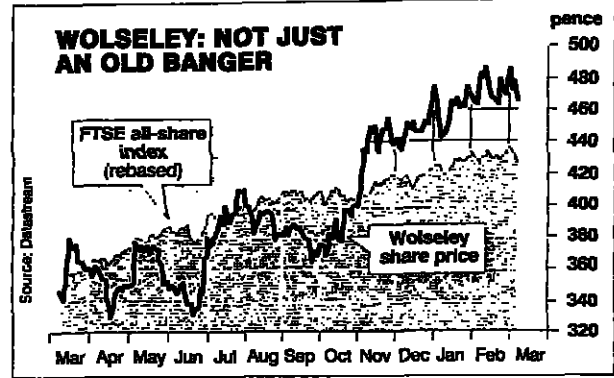
WOLSELEY is like the boy who cried wolf. However, in this particular tale the problem is that the boy has performed so well in the past that no one believes the wolf is at the door. Or, to be more precise, investors reckon that Wolseley's door is strong enough to withstand this hungry beast.

They are probably right, and the company delivered evidence yesterday to support that view. Over the last six months, Wolseley faced not only a comatose housing market in the UK, but a French market in retreat, complete with strikes and tax increases. At the same time, expansion in the North Carolina building market began to slow. Investors might have expected a sharp downturn, but most of the £6 million profits dip in the first half was

because of the closure of a factory and associated redundancies, although the company failed to include an exceptional charge.

Wolseley does itself few favours by being so miserly in its provision of financial information. It further provokes the accusation that a builders' merchant ought to have better uses for its capi-

tal than photographic supplies and electrical equipment. The logic is that the manufacturing businesses, albeit low growth, generate cash and provide a buffer in a building downturn. This time, however, the downturns were synchronous, but that is no reason to abandon shares in an otherwise well-tuned machine.



Hanson

LORD HANSON's decision to break up the company threatened to turn his retirement into a wake rather than the intended final hurrah. The share price slumped almost immediately after the announcement of the merger plans as fears grew about the tax, debt and dividend consequences of the merger.

At one stage, the price touched 180p, a fall of around 10 per cent in value. But in the past couple of weeks, sentiment has begun to turn, not via the traditional Hanson trick of a scintillating deal, but the gradual drip of more positive information into the market.

It is now believed that initial fears about a huge rise in the tax charge for the four demerged companies has been overstated. The debt burden remains a worry, but Hanson has successfully sold Cavenham and floated Suburban Propane for

about £30 million more than the predicted £15 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

Revised valuations are quoting a demerged Hanson at between 220p and 240p. While doubts will continue to linger until the plans are spelt out in more detail, expect the share price recovery to continue at a gentle pace.

TI Group

TI GROUP has turned in strong performances, improved margins and is poised to benefit from an upturn in aerospace. Furthermore, it has eliminated its debt and is substantially cash generative.

But such a rosy picture should not shield the fact that it is very much steady as she goes for the engineering and aerospace giant. TI will not be splashing its money around and, while the company is in

robust state, it is also constrained to a significant degree by the fairly subdued economies in which the group operates.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
COCOA			
Mar	990-970	May	997-986
Jul	998-988	Jul	1006
Sep	991-980	Sep	1001
Nov	994-984	Nov	1006
Jan	997-987	Jan	1011
Mar	994-973	Mar	Volume: 2824
ROBUSTA COFFEE (C)			
Mar	2010-2000	May	1727-1728
Jul	1960-1959	Jul	1705-1706
Sep	1703-1789	Mar	1701-1681
Nov	1692-1691	Nov	Volume: 2421
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)			
Reuters	Dec	311.0-167	
Spot 399.0	Mar	315.5-09.9	
Aug	301.0-1.5	Aug	311.0-0.0
Oct	302.0-1.7	Oct	311.0-0.0
Dec	307.2-0.6	Dec	Volume: 1683
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
Average market prices at representative markets on March 11			
(g/lb)	lb	Shag	Cattle
Gr	106.0-6	129.14	108.00
(+/-)	+1.28	+0.40	-0.85
Eng/Wool	106.99	143.03	118.67
(+/-)	+1.29	+0.62	-0.98
Gr	110	110	113.0
Scottland	105.05	136.28	122.16
(+/-)	+0.85	+0.98	-0.80
Gr	105.0	105.0	105.0
LIFE-LOK (London 6.00pm)			
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)			
Brnt 15 day	19.49	-0.50	
Brnt 15 day (Apr)	18.35	-0.50	
Brnt 15 day (May)	17.85	-0.40	
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.40	+0.25	
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.45	-0.35	
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			
Spot CIF NW Europe (gross delivery)			
Propan	110.00	C (187)	
Gasoil EC	182.6	185 (+)	
Non EEC/H Mar	180 (+)	182 (+)	
W Texas Intermediate	172.00	172.00	
3.5 Naph Oil	103 (n/c)	104 (n/c)	
3.5 Fuel Oil	172 (n/c)	174 (n/c)	
FIBRE FUTURES (GNI Lb)			
Apr	165.75-66.00	Jul	153.00-33.25
May	158.75-69.00	Aug	153.00-32.25
Jun	154.00-68.00	Nov	Vol: 29031
BRENT (\$/bblpm)			
Apr	18.82-18.84	Jul	16.84 B1R
May	17.73-18.85	Aug	16.76 S1R
Jun	17.22 B1R	Nov	Vol: 37242
(Official Volume prev day)			
Copper Gde A (Strom)	79.49	-0.29-0.00	
Lead (Strom)	797	0.00-0.00	
Zinc (Strom)	797	0.00-0.00	
Tin (Strom)	5980.00	-0.00-0.00	
Aluminium 1st Gde (Strom)	1900	0.00-0.00	
Aluminium 2nd Gde (Strom)	1900	0.00-0.00	
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Copper 2501 02/00	30.25	25.1-25.20	
Lead 2501 02/00	77.00	25.00-25.00	
Zinc 2501 02/00	80.00	25.00-25.00	
Tin 2501 02/00	6220.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 1st Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 2nd Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 3rd Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 4th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 5th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 6th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 7th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 8th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 9th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 10th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 11th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 12th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 13th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
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Aluminium 163rd Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
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Aluminium 165th Gde 2501 02/00	1632.00	25.00-25.00	
Aluminium 166th Gde 2501 02/			

End of Wall Street's wishful pessimism

Almost anyone who has slept in a feather bed (still to be found in some Alpine retreats) has had the same feeling. Warm, deep sleep, then the sun rises. A friend, eager to get started, rudely pulls off the eiderdown, and for a moment the world seems a cold and threatening place, but not for long.

That was Wall Street last Friday. For months, the market has been luxuriating in softness — sluggish recovery, no cold inflationary draughts, falling interest rates, and lots of idle money. At any hint of brightness that might disturb its slumber, it has hidden its head under the pillows. Then the Bureau of Labor Statistics whipped off the covers. Brrr! But now, the day does look rather jolly.

Yet there was really no excuse for being so shocked. First, the payroll figure — a rise of 705,000 — was not as startling as it looked. Adjust for the cold-weather layoffs of January, and we get an underlying rise of 268,000 a month for January and February

together: not the soft feathered scenario, but perfectly consistent with most of the other March figures. The month opened with car and truck sales sharply ahead of expectations, followed with consumer credit and M2 both some \$4 billion above advance guesses. Personal income growth, department store sales, factory orders and unemployment claims have all told the same story.

In terms of activity, this adds up to solid recovery. Indeed, the evidence was clear to the perceptive long before March. It is three months to the day since this column reported a warning (or rather a promise) from Bob Brusca, of Nikko in New York, who had been sounding the same wake-up call for three months before that.

He argued forcefully that the weak monthly figures that had just appeared were misleading. Stand back a little, look at the three-month and six-month

trends, and the picture changed to one of vigorous underlying recovery, led by investment, housing and factory orders. The March announcements simply extend those trends. Our own warning against paying attention to isolated monthly figures stands, too: especially after a US government shutdown, and the ensuing disruption.

To be fair, dealers have proved more alert than most of their economic analysts. While the economic consensus was stuck at "soft landing", or even warning of a new recession, prices were responding to reality.

A few months ago, the bond yield curves suggested a whole series of further interest rate cuts; by ten days ago, they looked only for a final quarter-point cut, their disappointment, and



ANTHONY HARRIS

their reaction, has been moderate, and only the consensus analysts are left looking really foolish. Now, of course, the question is different: no longer "When can we expect the next cut?" but "When will the Fed start raising rates again?"

European central bankers, who appear to believe that above-trend growth, regardless of context, always means potential inflation, would allow little time to wonder. Figures like those that have appeared in the US this month would call for an immediate crack of the whip. The Fed, by contrast, is concerned to check inflation, not growth. The regional reserve banks constantly check local trends and have been reporting underlying strength for some time. At headquarters, a large economic staff works full time to

measure such things as the growth of productive capacity (the subject here only of lump guesstimates), possible errors in the inflation numbers, and labour market behaviour. Most of these soundings suggest that the US economy is still well clear of shoal water. The US investment boom (which has no echo here, alas) has raised capacity faster than output, according to the Fed's index; and Alan Greenspan also believes that modern computer-based management techniques make it safe to get nearer to the limits of potential. He has also suggested that the official consumer price index figures overstate inflation, perhaps by more than a full percentage point, because they make little allowance for quality improvements. The purchasing manager survey still shows soft input prices, and in the housing market, which has seen one of the strongest volume recoveries, prices are

actually falling, thanks to an over-ambitious rate of housing starts.

Indeed, the only area at which inflation worries can at the moment point a shaking finger is the labour market. The current unemployment rate, 5.5 per cent, is a full point below what was until recently regarded as the safe limit, and even if the announced February employment bounce is revised downwards (seen as likely), unemployment is probably still trending down. But in spite of these figures, and a seemingly alarming 3.5 per cent jump in unit labour costs (because employment tends to rise ahead of output, the Fed is apparently waiting to see).

Has job insecurity radically changed bargaining behaviour? Does third-world competition, which checks manufacturing costs, also restrain behaviour in sheltered markets such as the service sector? The US, now the world's growth laboratory, will be the first to discover how these questions are answered in a deregulated economy. But even if the answers are favourable, would they be the same in Europe?

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

On the fast track from Dublin

BRIAN WILSON, the genial banker who served 21 years with Allied Irish Bank, rising to be a managing director in Dublin, is enjoying the luck of the Irish. Wilson, 50, joined the World Bank in May as a senior adviser, was soon promoted to director status, and yesterday was further promoted to vice-president of financial policy and institutional strategy. His fast track is part of World Bank president Jim Wolfensohn's determination to make the august body as international as possible. And there are still three days to go to St Patrick's Day.

Off target

LORD Archer of Weston-super-Mare was beaten by a back in *Esquire* magazine's "Get rich quick challenge". Six men were given £500 and a week to see how much they could make with it. Step forward Jeff Randall, soon to quit the world of PR to return to journalism, who finished £590 up, leaving Lord Archer in second place clutching £460. Part-time punter Randall made his money on the golf course and in the casino. Lord Archer made his money buying and selling a picture, donating his winnings to the British Red Cross. Losing wasn't easy for Lord Archer. "If he's so good, then why isn't he a millionaire?" he jested.



Archer: sold picture

Soft centre?

MORE familiar with hole punches than violet creams, Roger Paffard, who recently left office supplies Staples to be group chief executive at Thornton, the confectioner, insisted on spending his first week on the shop floor. Paffard's stint at a branch in Derby fell during the busy run-up to Valentine's Day. "The highlight of my week was trying and failing to ice messages on Valentine's cakes," he admits. "Some of them were very funny and probably illegal."

Swap option

THE Merrill-go-round between staff at the Thundering Herd and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell span again yesterday as corporate financiers Simon MacKenzie-Smith and Bob Wigley said they were joining Merrill Lynch. Meanwhile, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said it was taking Merrill's John Winter from its Frankfurt office to head its debt capital markets business in London, reporting to Grant Kvalheim and Hans-Werner Voigt.

MEANWHILE, ABN-Amro Hoare Govett is "delighted" to announce that as of June, the seven-strong BZW investment trust team will join its camp. Co-heads of the team will be Andrzej Sobczak and Roderick Crawford, whose colleagues helped to bring it to market.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Stores pressed to keep open at all costs

Sarah Bagnall says landlords are trying to tie down their retail tenants

There has never been much love lost between Britain's landlords and their commercial tenants. Each has exploited every opportunity to gain the upper hand in a bid to strike the best deal possible, with their resulting successes dictated by the prevailing balance of power between the two parties.

In the 1960s the landlords were firmly in the driving seat but the rise of the shopping centre — in and out of town — has helped to propel the tenants into a position of power. As a result of the glut of space, tenants have been able to win a string of concessions, such as rent-free periods and lease breaks. But landlords are beginning to fight back.

Clauses hitherto ignored are now starting to be enforced as the Royal Bank of Scotland and Safeway are discovering to their cost. The clauses in question are the so-called "keep-open" covenants included in many lease agreements, which bind the tenant to remaining open for the entire life of the lease.

These covenants started to appear in leases about 30 years ago but caused little concern for retailers in spite of the fact that they knew they were likely to move on before the lease expired.

Steven Fogel, head of property at Titmuss Sainer Dechert, says: "It was always thought during the 1980s that companies would never enforce a keep-open covenant but



Shopping mall: "The departure of an anchor tenant like Marks & Spencer can drastically affect the revenues of other retailers"

would require the tenant to pay damages. It was considered almost tantamount to slavery if they did enforce the covenants."

Retailers are constantly involved in rejigging their property portfolios. The reasons range from the desire to trade from a larger outlet, or move to a better located site, or simply to close down a store that is unprofitable.

Radical changes to company property portfolios have become more common since the start of the 1990s, with rationalisation the name of the game as businesses focus on cost-cutting rather than on expansion.

Another factor is the trend

towards one-stop shopping offering long opening hours and ease of parking. This week Skeneley announced the closure of 160 stores and revealed that it was these changes in shopping habits that had resulted in a mismatch between the location of its stores and potential customers.

David Davies, the company's chairman, says: "The position has been exacerbated by the lack of flexibility in relocating branches in the light of standard 25-year leases entered into during the 1970s and 1980s."

Historically, tenants have managed to negotiate their way out of leases by agreeing to pay the landlord damages

in compensation for loss of rental income over the remaining life of the lease. An alternative solution has been to help to find a replacement tenant.

But landlords are starting to try to enforce the covenants. Ken Wyatt, manager of Safeway's property portfolio, says the supermarket group has ongoing cases in Scotland and in England. In both cases the food retailer wants to close a store but the landlords have taken court action. Often landlords are loath to allow a tenant to quit a store if it is deemed critical to the success of the shopping mall.

"The departure of an anchor tenant, such as Marks & Spencer or a food retailer, will reduce footfall in the area and cause a sharp reduction in revenues for other outlets in the mall," says Mark Bradshaw, assistant director (property) at the British Retail Consortium (BRC).

This situation is not necessarily perceived as bad by all retailers — the smaller ones often support "keep-open" clauses since it means the key magnet store will stay put.

Mr Wyatt says that Safeway is waiting to hear whether it has been granted the right to appeal to the House of Lords against an adverse ruling governing the group's store at the Hillsborough Centre in Sheffield. "This is the first case

in England. It has never happened before. Landlords have always accepted damages. If we lose, the implications will be serious as it could happen to any tenant, large or small, because the law doesn't distinguish between the two," says Mr Wyatt.

Meanwhile, a separate action in Scotland is due to proceed to the Court of Appeal. Ironically, the Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd, the landlord of the Sheffield store, is itself a major leaseholder on the high street.

However, the enforcement of the clauses may cause problems for landlords and tenants alike. Mr Fogel says: "From the landlords' point of

view it may mean that when it comes to rent reviews the tenant has to pay less rent because anyone wanting the lease from the existing tenant would want a discount to reflect the long-term nature of the lease."

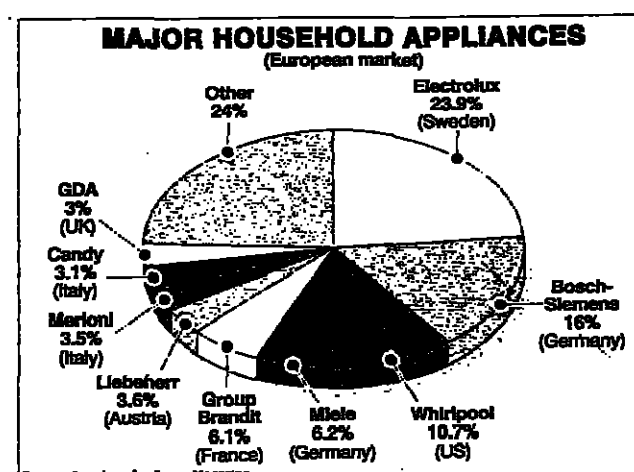
Mr Bradshaw agrees: "A landlord will suffer on a rent review if he seeks to impose an onerous keep-open clause. A retailer will be more likely to go to arbitration to argue for a rent review."

The retail consortium knows of many cases where a keep-open clause has enabled retailers to agree a reduced rent or an extra allowance. "As a result landlords may want to be cautious and are likely to decide on a case-by-case basis whether to enforce the clause," he adds.

As Mr Fogel says: "You could end up in the ridiculous situation of a retailer competing with itself as it opens a new site in a prime area but has to keep its old store open."

White goods sector faces a chill wind from the East

Ross Tieman and Sarah Cunningham on a push by Asia



top four on the continent in the manufacture of televisions, video cassette recorders and microwave ovens, though its products often carry others' brand names. One in every four microwave ovens sold in Britain comes from Daewoo's plant in Longwy, France, the biggest in Europe.

The company also has a massive plant in Antrim, Northern Ireland, making video recorders and components, and assembles televisions in France and Poland.

Now the company has established a European headquarters in Frankfurt to manage its five factories and 4,000 European employees, and to mastermind its challenge to the European white goods industry.

Daewoo is expected to announce plans for its first European refrigerator plant within weeks. The \$256 million factory, at Bilbao, Spain,

will produce 200,000 machines a year.

A washing machine plant has already been established in Poland, with a target of 300,000 machines a year. According to JB Chun, managing director of Daewoo Electronics Europe, "Product development in Europe has been very slow. The reason is that the product is bulky and difficult to transport."

Daewoo now expects to build three or four plants producing washing machines and refrigerators designed or modified to meet the needs of particular national markets.

These plants will be supported by a network of component factories. Daewoo expects to spend \$100 million on a plant to produce compressors for refrigerators and air-conditioning units, \$100 million on an industrial motors plant,

and another \$100 million on a factory to make magnetrons for microwave ovens. Britain is considered a promising location for the component factories because its low-cost, and highly flexible labour force combines with the high value-to-weight ratio of components, to overcome the costs of transport. The United Kingdom may also be in the running for factories making washing machines and air-conditioning units for vehicles and a \$1.2 billion factory to make bespoke computer chips for the appliances.

Whether European rivals have fallen behind in the innovation race remains to be seen. Daewoo will face some formidable competition. Poor profitability during the 1980s, and the opening of the European market, triggered a rapid consolidation of white goods manufacture in Europe. Three companies: Electrolux of Sweden, Bosch-Siemens of Germany and Whirlpool of the United States now command half of the European white goods market.

But the most worrying element for European rivals may be the Korean's willingness to sell appliances at little more than cost in order to build its market share.

Daewoo Electronics has set itself a global sales target of \$5.5 billion this year, up a quarter on 1995, with most of the growth coming from Europe and the US. But last year it announced net earnings of just \$60 million on sales of \$4.02 billion — a margin of just 1.5 per cent. Such cut-throat pricing may please consumers, but is likely to put a lot of pressure on the profitability of Europe's existing manufacturers.

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

DELTA

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

	1995	1994
Turnover	1018.5	898.6
Profit before interest	63.4	71.3
Profit before tax	53.1	65.1
Earnings per share	20.0p	27.7p
Dividends per share	18.9p	15.5p

* Final dividend to be paid as a Foreign Income Dividend (FID)

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 30th December 1995, from which the above is an extract, are available from 29th March from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6XZ. Telephone 0171-836 3333.

THE TIMES UNLIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

هكذا من الأصل

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1986										1986									
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					Yr. %										Yr. %				
					R/R										R/R				
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FAX:
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OF ALL TRADES
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Small but high profile and extremely successful fund manager need versatile Manager/PA to look after company, clients & kitchen sink initiatives. Intelligent and an interested approach are essential. 5/6 days a week, 9-5pm.

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An experienced HR person (20-25 yrs) to provide an effective service working to high standards at typical City organisation and will have proven ability to manage HR issues, specialist skills to cope with confidential issues, be discreet, sensitive, work on own initiative, have sound judgement of current HR policies, procedures & practices. If this is you call Louise Jeffers on

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Circa £20,000**

Would you enjoy working for a high profile team with a front approach and a great sense of humour? You will be managing a team of PR people and will be responsible for a great job. Happy to hold the line, you will need your eye on the ball to keep track of what is going on, where you are expected to be and generally what's going on.

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**SENIOR CITY PA
£24-26,000
+ BONUS + BENS**

If you are a meticulous, organised self starter who can keep pace with a busy boss and who thrives on the pace and demands of City business, then this could be the job for you. Enjoy a one-to-one role working for a senior City player who needs a PA on whom he can totally rely. Complete travel arrangements, confidential projects and marketing advice will form part of your day, together with the usual duties, dedication and commitment with a senior PA position. Previous experience associated with a senior PA position. Previous experience level City experience, professional in Corporate Finance, desirable. 100% 4/5 W4W & Excel

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**MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED**

**PEARSON
PROFESSIONAL
MEDIA COMPANY**

**PA TO
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR.**

We are looking for a well organized professional PA to work with one of our Executive Directors at our Head Office. You will be working on your own initiative, organising a hectic diary with international travel. Excellent secretarial skills are required to succeed in this position and a flexible approach, together with commitment and a desire to become a key member of our Head Office support team.

In return we are offering a salary of £19,000 according to age and experience, with other benefits including lunch allowance, 25 days holiday and contributory pension scheme. Closing date for applications is 22 March.

Please apply in writing with a full CV:
Charlotte Weston, Human Resources Director, Pearson Professional Ltd, Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 8LL.

**DYNAMIC BRAND PLANNING
AGENCY**

requires **SECRETARY**

to work as part of a small team. A level standard or above. English perfect, other languages useful. Accuracy in all things essential. DTP (Corel & Word) knowledge/experience helpful, but will train.

CV and letter to:
Bill Foster
Expressions Planning Limited
416a Kings Road
London SW10 0LJ

WA

**£24k +
Bonus + Bens**

**A RARE
OPPORTUNITY**

This is a prestigious role for a Senior Secretary to work for a dynamic MD of an investment bank. Proven experience in Corporate Finance would be preferred, but strong organisation and communication skills are more important. An assertive but friendly individual with first class secretarial skills and the ability to work under pressure is what we are looking for.

0171 225 1888
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

**PA to Chairman
City
to £35,000 plus benefits**

Distinguished Chairman of this leading City Financial Institution is seeking a charming and professional PA to organise both the business and personal side of his hectic life. Duties will include constant liaison with clients and other members of staff, meeting coordination and arranging complex itineraries. Essential requirements for this role are current Investment Banking experience and fast shorthand for constant use. Age: 33-45. Skills: 100/60/WP. Please call Claire Ashley for further information on 0171-390 7000.

**£20,000
Personal
Secretary**

Worthy young businessman with international interests needs a personal secretary/assistant to organise his life. This is a high profile, multi-faceted role in which you will be relied on to understand & anticipate your boss's needs & to take control of the day-to-day running of his office & home at the highest level on his behalf. You will be ultra professional, discreet & dynamic & enjoy the challenge of coping on your own in a demanding environment where no two days are the same. Middle Eastern experience useful. 50 typing.

**RECRUITMENT
- COMPANY**

0171-431-1220 5 GERRARD STREET WEST W6

**Graduate
Secretary
Age 22-28
Pkg £20,000+**

This is the ideal opportunity for an enthusiastic secretary who is seeking a varied secretarial/administration position with lots of involvement. Working for this European Bank you will be assisting two Directors and organising a number of your own projects. To accompany the secretarial content of this role you will arrange events such as wine tasting evenings and have lots of client involvement. You should be extremely on the ball, enjoy using your own initiative and capable of working at a senior level. Skills: 45 wpm/Word for Windows. Please call Belinda on 0171-390-7000.

**Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**

**Tough at the Top!
to £28,000
plus banking bens**

City Stockbrokers have the requirement for a senior level PA to work for the Chief Executive and his deputy. Based on the trading floor, this role is highly demanding and requires excellent use of skills and organisational ability. In addition to the usual PA duties, such as travel and meetings, you will be asked to use your initiative handling some of your own projects. Current experience in a similar banking role is essential. Hours: 8-6pm. Skills: 80/60/WP. Age: 26-40. Please call Kate Hudson on 0171-390 7000 for further details.

**Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**

**Dynamic Duo
to £23,000
Immediate Start**

Entrepreneurial pair of fund managers, both with City pedigree, each seek an assistant to run their lives. They have a work hard play hard culture where you will have responsibility for preparing presentations, organising corporate entertainment and international travel. You will be used to tight deadlines, probably have City experience and will be professional, organised and outgoing. You? If so and if you have 90/60, good WP skills, are aged 24-32 and enjoy client contact, please call Dorothea de Kock on 0171 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**

**Mac Whiz
Mayfair
£20,000**

Are you energetic, intelligent, tactful and highly organised? If so, this young, fun, international management consultancy needs you to enhance their dynamic marketing and retail team. They are very busy and want someone who is looking for a new challenge as there is plenty of opportunity to get involved in projects and use your artistic flair. If you enjoy working unsupervised, have good secretarial skills (60wpm) and an excellent knowledge of AppleMac, please call Sonia Nair on 0171 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**

**Secretarial
Manager
c.£25,000 plus benefits**

Prestigious City Law firm have an exciting new opportunity for somebody to manage and coordinate a high profile team of floor secretaries. This role is very much 'hands on' involving constant liaison with both fee earners and support staff. Duties will include recruitment of new staff, interviewing, testing, appraisals and constant forward planning. Experience in a similar role within a Professional organisation and secretarial skills are essential. Age: 28+. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171-390 7000.

**Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**

**INVESTOR RELATIONS
PA to 19k + excellent bens**

We have a superb opportunity within a top investment bank which will appeal to a team minded, dynamic individual who would enjoy a market analysis role. This position will also involve presentation work, extensive client liaison and the opportunity to use your excellent organisational and secretarial skills as part of a team of high fliers. Please call Lisa Kelly or Monique Cooke.

We also have a wide range of temporary city roles paying up to £12.00 per hour please call Jane Williams

A division of Graduate Appointments

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& TEMPORARY
APPOINTMENTS**

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Fax: 0171 379 6113
7a Langley Street
London WC2E 8JF

BANKING : STOP PRESS

£19K - Corporate Banking (60wpm Shorthand)
Previous Finance/Blue Chip secretarial experience. Steady CV & Ideal Age 18-25 years.

£16K - Emerging Markets (60wpm Typing)
Previous trading floor experience or similar is essential for this team secretarial role.

£19K - Credit Risk (60wpm Typing)
Minimum of 6 months secretarial experience is needed for this junior Admin/Secretarial position. The ability to deal with pressure, an excellent telephone manner and a confident personality are also important.

£19K - Chairman's Office (Rapid Shorthand at 70/80wpm)
Brilliant opportunity for a junior secretary. Conversational German is essential.

£19K - Legal Admin Secretary (60wpm Typing)
Legal experience would be ideal with strong organisational skills and the desire to be part of a team being a pre-requisite.

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HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RATES

For first class short and long term temporary assignments, including temp to perm situations, Pan European should be your first port of call.

IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (Min 60wpm)

- Director's Secretary (Banking) - Temp to Perm
- Trading Floor (Banking) - Temp to Perm
- Junior Secretary (Marketing) - Indef

IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS (Min 60wpm)

- Director's Secretary (Solicitors) - Temp to Perm
- Team Secretary (IT) - Indef
- Director's Secretary (Insurance) - 2/4 weeks

If you have good shorthand and audio skills, are aged between 20-40 years and have a good working knowledge of Windows-based packages - PLEASE CALL US IMMEDIATELY

Please call us on
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Fax 0171 734 8501

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LONDON**

To join and expanding Medical Agency in West London. Would suit Medically trained person. Essential:

- Excellent telephone manner
- Computer literate

Salary negotiable
Call Sue - Spm
0181 878 7677
or fax CV to: 0181-877-8281

PA TO CHIEF EXEC.

For small Trade Assoc. W/C. Must have copy/Audio/MS Office exp. 3/4 hand, PR or Press Office exp an adv. Head flexible team member. Up to £18,000.

Call 0171 838 2282
Alfred Marks Rec Cons

**TEAM SECRETARY -
CORPORATE LAW**

US law firm based in the West End requires a team secretary with at minimum of two years corporate law experience gained either in a major UK/US law firm or within the legal department of a financial institution. You will like working as part of a team and enjoy a varied workload (approx 50% typing), have excellent Windows skills, preferably with WordPerfect 6.1 and a typing speed of 70 wpm+. A keen eye for detail is essential along with the ability to juggle a number of tasks and still keep smiling. Hours 10 - 6.30. Salary £20,000 plus PPP. Please send your c.v. to Mrs M Dunn, 26A Albermarle Street, London W1X 3FA.

Ref: PSCOMM/962
HOUSE OF LORDS

We have a vacancy for a Personal Secretary to work in the Parliament Office (Committee Office), starting as soon as possible.

The successful candidate, who will have initiative and a high standard of secretarial skills, will be working in an interesting environment in Parliament for senior Officers of the House and for Peers. Salary range is £12,755 - £17,940 per annum. This includes a Recruitment & Retention Allowance of £1,776 per annum which could change or be withdrawn. Applicants should be educated to GCSE standard or equivalent (including English Language) and have recognised secretarial qualifications. (Shorthand 90 wpm minimum, typing 50 wpm minimum). Experience of WordPerfect 5.1 essential.

Further details and on application form available from: The Establishment Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (telephone 0171 219 6630 (answering machine)).

Completed forms to be returned by 21 March 1996. Interviews to be held at the end of March. If you have not heard from us by the beginning of April you must assume you have not been shortlisted for interview.

No agencies please

**SHORTHAND SECRETARY
SW1
To £19,000
FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR**

Full involvement offered by international media, publishing, entertainment and financial services plc to a team-minded secretary. This position involves presentation work, correspondence administration, training and travel co-ordination together with ad hoc duties. Benefits include 25 days holiday, contributory pension, season ticket loan, medical insurance, subsidised health club and sports and social club. Discount on company owned products. Hours 9-5

**Harriet Gabb
RECRUITMENT**

FAX: 0171 222 2838/TEL: 0171 222 3838

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up to £17,000 + excellent benefits**

Executive Search Co. in West End requires an assistant to be in sole charge of updating candidate & company computerised records, monitoring press, filing & generally assisting the Research Dept. Attention to detail, efficiency & good organisational abilities together with excellent typing skills (60wpm) are essential.

Call Julia Davis on 0181 878 0394
Ardley Wharton Davis
Recruitment Specialists

**Career Opportunity
Manager
£30,000 - £40,000 pkg**

Crone Corkill is London's leading secretarial recruitment consultancy with a proven track-record in a blue chip environment and with exciting plans for the next stage of its development.

We are now looking for a Manager to keep developing a key area of our business and manage an established and successful team of recruitment consultants. A clear commercial eye is essential in order to focus on business opportunities, while the ability to motivate and develop team members is an integral part of the role.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone with proven managerial skills and sales experience to further their career with a fast-moving, dynamic company where quality really counts.

If you feel you are ready for this challenge and are keen to contribute and share our continued success we would like to hear from you.

Please telephone Jessica Myers on 0171-377 8827 or fax your CV on 0171-247 0021.

**Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**

**PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT**

**A PRO-ACTIVE PA
c£20,000 + Bens**

Telceltron Software Systems is a rapidly growing systems house. We have made our name designing some of the most advanced dealing systems for the world's pre-eminent investment banks. Established since 1985, we expect to be one of the world's top ten software companies by the year 2000.

Based at our European headquarters in London, we are searching for an intelligent PA with drive, initiative and energy to support two dynamic individuals. You will be a pro-active organiser, keen to get involved and handle everything from complex travel itineraries to preparing presentations and liaising with clients. You will be given plenty of opportunity to take on projects and develop your role. You must be a strong team player and possess excellent computer skills (preferably Word, Powerpoint and Excel).

WA

To apply please call Claire Hawley
at Victoria Wall Associates on 0171 225 1888

London Central YMCA

Training and Development

P.A. to Executive Director Ref: HM001
Excellent WP and organisational skills needed. £15,000 circa

Administrator/Secretary Ref: NFO02
To provide administration and secretarial support for our busy Training and Administration teams. £12,000 circa

Course Administrator Ref: HLO03
To deal with the processing and student details. £12,000 circa

Receptionist/Switchboard Ref: RE004
To staff our busy switchboard and reception. £11,000 circa

London Central YMCA operates within the fitness industry, running a range of related training courses. (Packages includes free Fitness membership and meals whilst working.)

For full details please telephone 0171 580 2989 ext: 524
Closing date for applications: 29th March 1996

**PA TO CHIEF
EXECUTIVE**

A high profile role for a talented senior secretary

South West Surrey

Up to £19,407 pa plus benefits

Waverley Borough Council has a new Chief Executive and already the pace of change is speeding up. Would you enjoy being a key component of her support network?

This is no normal 9-5 secretarial post. It will require flexibility, lateral thinking and initiative. The successful candidate for this challenging and exciting post is likely to be an experienced Senior Secretary or Personal Assistant with proven supervisory skills, who is used to achieving deadlines. The ability to communicate effectively together with a high level of tact and diplomacy is essential.

Based in modern offices at the Council's headquarters in Godalming, the postholder will be an important link between the Chief Executive and a range of local and national organisations as well as the Council's local community.

With the post goes an attractive salary and benefits package. Interested?

For further information and application papers, please write to Tracey Gibb, Personnel Officer, Waverley Borough Council, The Bury, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1HR or telephone our 24 hour answering service on 01483 869383.

Closing Date: 29th March 1996
Interview Date: 17th April 1996
Waverley now has a smoke free work environment

Waverley

**FAIRPLACE CONSULTING
SECRETARY**

SALARY £18,000 NEG

Leading City Human Resources Consultancy requires energetic, well presented secretary to work at director level. Highly varied, busy workload.

Office CV to:
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LEGAL SECRETARY

Circa £17,000 + Benefits

Woodchester Credit Lyonnais plc, a financial services company part of the Crédit Lyonnais Group, is seeking to appoint a Legal Secretary. The position will provide full secretarial support to the Company Solicitor and the Legal Team and involves substantial copy and audio-typing, liaison with other departments within the Group and regular telephone work.

Applicants must have at least two years secretarial experience within a legal environment, ideally with a bias towards litigation. All candidates should possess speeds of at least 70 wpm typing, 90 wpm shorthand, be fully computer literate and have the organisational skills and enthusiasm to carry out their role effectively. The ability to communicate at all levels and an excellent telephone manner are also essential requirements.

To apply for the above position, please telephone 0171-987-4134 for an application form, quoting reference L51.

Closing date for applications is 29th March 1996.

**WOODCHESTER
CREDIT LYONNAIS**

The bottom line is...

Our high flying temp team earn one AIR MILES award for every hour they work.

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Crone Corkill

Temporary Recruitment

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
0171 481 9313

AT THE HUB £20,000 + BENEFITS

This busy, friendly team in Human Resources need someone to join them as secretary to their Director. You will provide highly confidential secretarial support on a 1-1 basis whilst getting involved in team activities. If you are keen to work at the hub of an international company's wheel then what are you waiting for? Typing 60wpm, Word for Windows useful. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TELEVISION £18,000

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HERITAGE

The cars must go: two top architects present plans to pedestrianise London's squares



THEATRE 1

Dawn French and a host of other big names are signed up for a much extended Chichester season



THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 2

The Shoe Horn Sonata proves to be a moving story of female courage in the prison camps



TOMORROW

Richard Nixon's exploits come to the big screen, but how fair is Oliver Stone's interpretation?

For too long, London has been in thrall to the car. Marcus Binney reports on plans to reclaim the city for the pedestrian

These beats are made for walking

Londoners will consider the millennium brouhaha to have been worthwhile if it achieves at least one thing: making the capital a more pleasant place to stroll about in. London has been slower to pedestrianise than almost any great city in Europe. Apart from Carnaby Street and Covent Garden, it is mainly a case of "cars come first".

The one recent exception is Leicester Square, now as handsomely paved in large slabs of granite as the streets of Santiago de Compostela. But walk on a few yards to Piccadilly Circus, and pedestrians are once again treated like cattle, herded behind barriers and forced sideways down the Haymarket to allow motorists to take the corner with their foot on the accelerator.

Two of London's leading architects have a bigger vision. Sir Richard Rogers is campaigning for London's squares and Terry Farrell for the royal parks. Rogers has a plan to pave over the road in front of the National Gallery so that it becomes part of Trafalgar Square. Furthermore, he proposes the construction of cafes and restaurants with a view over the fountains.

He goes further. In his vision, Northumberland Avenue would become London's equivalent to Barcelona's famous Ramblas. It is about the same width, all that needs to be done is to create a broad central pavement, serving as a street market, with the traffic contained in two narrower lanes on either side.

The knee-jerk reaction would be to ask: "What about the traffic? Won't we all be stuck in jams for ever more?" The chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, Lord St John of Fawley, went ballistic when the traffic layout in front of Buckingham Palace changed. But within a few weeks it was running as smoothly as ever. The reality is that a new, enlightened generation of traffic engineers is thinking again about the one-way systems that infuriate drivers and pedestrians alike.

Imagine you are on your way to the theatre in the Strand, hurrying along the Mall or up Whitehall. Today you

are swept off in a big detour around Trafalgar Square, fighting your way across traffic going eastwards. Often it is virtual gridlock. Atkins, the traffic consultancy, has a simple solution: make the traffic two-way across the south of the square, shorten everyone's journey and free the rest of the square for pedestrians.

If you still have doubts, listen to Atkins's plans for Aldwych. For years, St Mary-le-Strand, one of London's most delightful Baroque churches, has stood marooned on a traffic island, as buses, taxis and cars fight their way across each other. Atkins would simply make the northern arc of the Aldwych two-way and pave over the south as a new square in front of Somerset House.

Westminster councillors are swallowing hard, but they have already carried out the Atkins improvements in front of Charing Cross station. Traffic lanes have been reduced, and it is easier for pedestrians to cross, but traffic still flows smoothly. Now Atkins is proceeding with the Strand. A wide central reservation is being created, with handsome new lampstands, while selected side streets will be closed.

Farrell's plans for the royal parks have the same radical simplicity. London's foremost pedestrian nightmare is Hyde Park Corner. Walkers are forced, Farrell says, "along sensory-deprived rat runs". He proposes that pedestrians walking up Constitution Hill should have the red-carpet treatment and take the royal route through Wellington Arch and Decimus Burton's elegant screen into Hyde Park. For the humble pedestrian, as for the Queen in her Rolls-Royce, the traffic would stop.

Farrell would do the same at Regent's Park. As we walked up Regent Street and Portland Place, we would no longer be swept off sideways around the private gardens of Park Crescent and Park Square. We would walk straight through the middle, with new priority crossings over Euston Road. Indeed, Farrell would go further — he wants us to walk down St James's Street, through the palace gate and into the Mall.

The ring of steel thrown up around the City as a defence against terrorist attack shows that it is possible to make radical shifts in traffic without the capital grinding to a halt. Indeed, with security measures again being strengthened, there is excellent reason to pedestrianise many streets permanently. But George Allan, chairman of the City of London Amenity Trust, thinks the City is still failing to take advantage. "The City has no concept of closing down streets," he says. "It has one of the smallest ratios of open space in the capital. The obvious way to increase it is to close streets except for those on foot. Instead, the City remains the ideological home of the rat run."

"Policy is driven by the senior-partner brigade, who think it is a matter of national interest that they can drive from suburban Surrey to the underground car park along any little lane of their choosing."

The City has one of the highest pedestrian flows in Britain, but conditions are wretched. To walk across the City, Allan says, from Fleet Street to Fenchurch Street — no more

than a mile apart — is beyond contemplation, because of the miles of railings and constant fumes.

Subconsciously, people have been put off walking in London by the sheer hassle of waiting at lights and crossings, and by being forced into annoying diversions from their chosen route because traffic comes first. London's priority should be to create a series of pedestrian-first routes criss-crossing the centre.

The architect Sir Colin Stansfield Smith says: "We've converted our major civic spaces into traffic islands. The problem is the traffic engineer and his curb. Without the curb, cars lose priority and are forced to pay greater heed to pedestrians."

Pavements must be widened and traffic lanes reduced, not increased. More of London's one-way systems need to be re-examined. Traffic may move faster going round the houses, but it does not necessarily get there quicker.

Stone paving must be more widely reintroduced. If York stone is not

available, then large granite slabs should be used. Cheap paving does not last. Witness Bedford Square, where every other paving stone is cracked, and the municipal authority has allowed builders to turn expensive won pedestrian space into Portacabin City.

And more thought needs to be given to details. Curb stones have been eliminated at almost every pedestrian crossing to make it easier for push-chairs and prams. The result is a bodge. In Milan, the problem has been resolved by forming a beautiful semicircle of sloping stone at every town-centre crossing.

Rogers won a unanimous show of support at the first Evening Standard debate for his proposal to reduce the dominance of traffic in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. The question is whether London's politicians have the guts to take these ideas forward at more than a snail's pace.

● A debate on Pavements, Parks and People will be held at Westminster Central Hall tonight (6.30pm). For tickets, ring 0171-332 3770

The best of both worlds? Richard Rogers would pedestrianise Trafalgar Square up to the National Gallery on the northern side, with two-way traffic to the south



LONDON CONCERTS

Russian soul in all its darkness

BBC SO/Kitaenko Festival Hall

SCHNITTKE's Viola Concerto is perhaps his masterpiece. Happily, it is also one of his most frequently played works, and its outing in the BBC Symphony Orchestra's concert on Friday was the eighth in this country since its premiere here in 1987. Nearly all those performances have been given by its dedicatee Yuri Bashmet — its themes are based on a musical encoding of his surname — but here the solo part was revealed afresh by Tabea Zimmermann.

Her playing, based on dark luminosity of tone, was impressive. Though she may not have found all the tragedy that Bashmet brings to the work, Zimmermann captured its stark eloquence more musically than I had heard before. More than ever, it put in mind the Viola Sonata of Shostakovich, the final work of the composer whose mantle Schnittke seems to have inherited.

Much of the credit for this fine performance belongs to Zimmermann: it was not until the third movement that the conductor, Dmitri Kitaenko, really made his mark on the piece. The

orchestral playing in the dark, disembodied finale was good, but earlier most of the interest had been supplied by the soloist. She was lyrical in the opening movement, and played the manic rondo with machine-gun-like attack and virtuosity. Shostakovich's most popular symphony, the Fifth, made an apt coupling. As a former chief conductor of the Moscow Philharmonic, Kitaenko must have performed it countless times, and there was a sense of routine here. He gave an exciting, but shallow account, as if playing a piece of Socialist Realism.

Kitaenko was best in the incisive scherzo and the climaxes of the outer movements. The opening was a little soft-grained and lacking in tension, the Largo not bleak enough. Uneven momentum in the finale proved fatal in a work that needs blazing intensity to succeed.

JOHN ALLISON

Sing out, sisters

Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares Festival Hall

THE recordings of the Bulgarian State Television Female Choir — better known under the more evocative title "Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares" — have been liberally marketed to appeal to a wide range of music lovers. And there can be no doubt about that appeal: the Festival Hall was full to capacity, and with a markedly younger audience than usual at a "straight" concert of classical music.

The choir itself is superb, disciplined down to its collective bows. The virtuoso arrangements of folk music from the distinctive regions of Bulgaria demand such precision: multi-voiced and often highly dissonant textures require absolute accuracy of intonation and complex word-patterning calls for tight ensemble. In all this the Bulgarian singers, under the direction of their artistic director Dora Hristova, excelled. They also sang with utter conviction, although their highly polished approach sometimes lacked spontaneity.

Apart from the distinctive nasal timbre and the reedy vocal quality that results, the most striking feature is the

diversity of musical styles within a single nation's folk traditions. Intense dissonance is often offset by bare fifths or a simple drone; choral-like passages are juxtaposed with highly embellished muezlin-style chanting, the soloists capable of seemingly endless roulades. The songs, presented as a cycle on *A Woman's Life* (pace Schumann), were equally varied in theme and tone, from dreamy love songs to rousing dances designed to make a monk forget his vows. It was all terrific, and the audience lapped it up.

Some of the arrangements veered towards the schmaltzy, the jazzy, even barbershop; but for me the most effective and compelling pieces were the simplest, the least sophisticated and truest to their modal structure. It is there that the true sense of mystery lies.

TESS KNIGHTON

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a moving tale in a Japanese prison camp; and brave ambitions in Sussex

Saving our Sheila

Some plays that make a conscious grab for your heartstrings make you wince. But John Misto's assault succeeds, for several good reasons. He has clearly done plenty of impassioned yet careful research into the sufferings of his fellow Australians in Japanese prison camps; and his director, Dan Crawford, has cast the formidable Maggie Kirkpatrick alongside Susannah York as a magnificently doughty survivor. Presented with authenticity here, you readily forgive the emotional calculation and the contrivances of plot elsewhere.

Black-and-white photos, keeping you abreast of the fall of Singapore and its aftermath, play on to the wall of a contemporary hotel room, flanked by a television studio. Here have come Kirkpatrick's Bridie, an Aussie nurse in 1942, and York's Sheila, the English girl she helped to keep alive in a series of awful internment camps. In between perching on chairs to tell a pushy interviewer their story, the two ageing women awkwardly engineer what seems to be their own first meeting in 50 years. The question you are meant to ask is this: why did people so close drift so far apart that not as much as a postcard has winged from Melbourne to Fremantle, where they respectively live?

Misto's answer to that may strike you as owing less to truth than to high drama.



Susannah York as Sheila and Maggie Kirkpatrick as Bridie

The Shoe Horn Sonata King's Head, N1

When Bridie caught cerebral malaria, Sheila bought her quinine by offering her body to a sadistic guard, pretending afterwards that she simply bared Bridie's prize possession, a shoe horn, for the life-saving drug. Rather than break this shocking secret to her friend, Sheila then made an embarrassed English exit from her life. But is it, you ask, credible that two women who had looked human evil in the eyes every day for three years would react so conventionally to an act of unconventionally generous, even in 1945?

If you share my doubt, you will find a hole near the plot's centre and, as a result, something suspicious about the play's upbeat denouement. There are other worries too. Though I am English and biased, the constant fun at the expense of upright Poms ventures too near cliché for my taste. The sort of colonial who quibbles too much at subsidiary improbabilities. You are moved; and that is that.

"Chin up", while keeping away from Catholics, would never pass muster in a Maugham short story.

Yet after the idiocies of Singapore, I think we British deserve the joke about the general who says of the Trojan horse: "How spiffing, chaps, wheel it in." More importantly, the details of camp life are all too plausible: the hunger, the scrambling around with fingers to dig graves, the saintliness, the black laughter that erupts when the commandant conveys a message from the Australian prime minister to "keep smiling", the joy given by the choir that learns to hum Ravel. And surely Misto did not invent the incident in which dying women are forced to climb a hill to hear Japanese bandmen play *The Blue Danube*.

Sensitive and feeling though she is, York seems a bit tentative as yet, but Fitzpatrick, who created the role of Bridie in Sydney, unerringly radiates bluff, unselfconscious goodness. As you follow her tale of quiet triumph over impossible odds, you cannot quibble too much at subsidiary improbabilities. You are moved; and that is that.

A coup for Chichester

Ever since Laurence Olivier's National Theatre Company left its temporary home in Chichester 30 years ago, the cognoscenti have tended to see the place as Mrs Tiggywinkle's cottage recast in concrete. That has sometimes been their folly, for the Festival Theatre has regularly proved its power to attract top performers: Donald Sinden in Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*; Eileen Atkins as Elizabeth I in *Vivat, Vivat Regina!*; Alan Bates as the gay Habsburg officer in Osborne's *Patriot for Me*, among a good many others.

All the same, the slur is not wholly unearned. Traditional audiences and the lack of so much as a penny in subsidy have combined to give a cautious, cathedral-close feel to the theatre's programming. Any director who tried anything recherché or financially ambitious in schloss Tiggywinkle soon learnt his lesson, as Michael Rudman did by losing his job four years ago.

But the arrival of Duncan Weldon and Derek Jacobi as co-directors last year brought changes that are to accelerate this year. In 1995 Lauren Bacall came from her Hollywood paradise with a performance of the zillionaire in Durrenmatt's *Visit* that extended the normal summer season deep into October. In 1996 Weldon, who has assumed sole control, with Jacobi as associate director, is getting still closer to his target, which is to take Chichester into the post-Tiggywinkle era and run high-powered rep there all year round.

Try these for artistic size. Alan Bates in Simon Gray's new play, a sequel to *Otherwise Engaged* called *Simply*

The Festival Theatre has cast off its reputation for Tiggywinkle cosiness

Disconnected. Maggie Smith in Alan Bennett's production of his own *Talking Heads*. Derek Jacobi, Alec McCowen and the enchanting Frances Barber in Chekhov's *Vanya*. Harriet Walter as Hedda Gabler. Patricia Routledge in a play about Beatrix Potter by Patrick Garland. Ronald Harwood's *Handyman*, a follow-up to his *Taking Sides* that involves an elderly Nazi criminal discovered working peacefully in Britain. And Alan Ayckbourn's latest, a comedy-thriller called *It Could Be Any One of Us*.

And that's only what will run from May to October in Chichester's studio-theatre, the Minerva. Proceedings on the main stage begin on April 29 with Congreve's *Love for Love*, starring Jacobi as the half-witted beau Tattle, and continue with the version of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* adapted by Willis Hall and directed by Michael Rudman, that was a huge success in Sheffield recently.

Add Peter Ustinov as the rumpled title-character in his own *Beethoven's Tenth*, Leo McKern and Dawn French in Priestley's *When We Are Married*, and Bates as an archetypal Russian loser in Turgenev's seldom-seen *Poor Gentleman*, here renamed *Fortune's Fool*

— and, no, the year's festivities are still not complete. Weldon is still negotiating with the actors he wants to perform in the next five main-stage offerings: *Much Ado*, Coward's *Hay Fever*, Lilian Hellman's *Little Foxes*, Maugham's *Our Betters*, Bernard Miles's *Lock Up Your Daughters*. But some enticing names are in prospect for the remainder of a season that will now stretch into December, after which the theatre closes for a £300,000 refit. Who knows, before long there may be a permanent company in place for the summer season, as in Olivier's day, while *ad hoc* casting prevails at other times.

One of Weldon's hopes is to make the theatre more self-sufficient, less reliant on whatever tours turn up during winter months that currently lose it money. Another is to get lottery funds for a £12 million redevelopment that will bring the site a movie theatre, rehearsal rooms, offices, new restaurants, perhaps even a television studio.

Since the Arts Council remains aloof — a cause of bitterness to Weldon — a couple of big flops could spoil everything. Budgets are dauntingly tight. But last year the theatre played to 80 per cent audiences, sold 2.2 million seats, made £120,000 clear profit on a turnover of £3.5 million, and, thanks to Weldon's position as a London impresario, transferred *Taking Sides*, Hobson's *Choice* and Pinter's *Home* to the West End. It does not sound, does it, as if Mrs Tiggywinkle is riding high.



CHOICE 1

Veteran pop diva Rita Coolidge plays a London cabaret season

VENUE: From tonight at the Café Royal



CHOICE 2

Sir Georg Solti conducts the LSO in Bruckner's Fourth Symphony

VENUE: Barbican, tonight and tomorrow

THE TIMES ARTS

OPERA 1

The night belongs to Violetta: Andrea Rost excels in *La traviata* at Covent Garden



OPERA 2

An American rarity, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, turns out to be full of plot but musically inert

LONDON

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Murray Perahia's renowned Mozart interpretations are shown off when he joins Georg Solti and the orchestra for another concert in the Bruckner/Mozart series. Tonight's programme includes the overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, Piano Concerto No 20, and Bruckner's most popular work, his Symphony No 4, Romantic. Barbican, Sat, 8pm. Tickets 0171 636 8891. Tonight and Thurs, 7.30pm. (S)

RITA COOLIDGE: One of the queens of rock and roll infuses the Green Room for the rest of the month, just in time for the release of her new jazz album. She's played with the best for years and it would be hard to better her as Mrs Yoko Kristalerson at her own party. Green Room, Café Royal, Regent Street, W1 (0171 437 9090). Tonight-March 30.

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra follow last week's sell-out Brinsford Festival programme.

COMPANY: Opening night for Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish and Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. A transfer from the Donmar Warehouse, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171 369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Wed and Sat, 3pm.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Triumph returns to Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political scandal and scandal, with Martin Shaw, Anna Carter and Piers Fennell. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171 590 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Wed and Sat, 3pm. (S)

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Philip Scordell plays the lead with the most jacket in a nine-week revival of the first of the *Joseph* plays. La Cinq, Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Westminster, SW6 (0171 416 6062). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 3pm.

MY OTHER COLOUR AND HER CHILDREN: David Hare's examination of society's conflicts in the form of a play about two women in love. A National Theatre transfer. National Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171 369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Tue-Sat, 3pm.

NEW RELEASES

LA CEREMONIE (15): The perfect husband gets his revenge on his wife. A film of the 19th-century French novel by Balzac. Directed by Claude Chabrol. MGM. Chabrol (0171 352 5096).

RESTORATION (15): Love and lives of a 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr.). Costume extravaganza. Directed by John Huston. MGM. Huston (0171 352 5096).

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15): A splendid atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in 1947. Directed by John Dahl. MGM. Dahl (0171 352 5096).

UNDERGROUND (15): Entertaining comic epic about war in the Balkans. Directed by Emir Kusturica. The 10th anniversary of Cannes film festival. Chabrol (0171 352 5096).

CASINO (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1940s. Directed by Martin Scorsese. Warner. Scorsese (0171 352 5096).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

with tonight's concert of Martin's *The Epic of Gilgamesh* and Shostakovich's Symphony No 10. Barbican, Sat, 8pm. Tickets 0171 636 8891. Tonight and Thurs, 7.30pm. (S)

BLACKPOOL: Last week on tour for Henry Goodman playing Freud and Tim Potter as Salvador Dalí. In Tony Johnson's surreal, double award-winning, *Myself*. Acclaimed by our reviewer as "the funniest serious play in London" last year. Grand, Church Street (01252 28372). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; Mon-Sat, 3pm. (S)

POOLE: Another tour nears the end of its run. *Myself* by Tony Johnson. Grand, Church Street (01252 28372). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; Mon-Sat, 3pm. (S)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

HOUSE OF COMMONS: A new play by Caryl Churchill. Barbican, Sat, 8pm. Tickets 0171 636 8891. Tonight and Thurs, 7.30pm. (S)

PASSION: First night of previews for Michael Ball, Maria Friedman and Helen Stanger in *Passion*. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171 590 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Wed and Sat, 3pm. (S)

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Philip Scordell plays the lead with the most jacket in a nine-week revival of the first of the *Joseph* plays. La Cinq, Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Westminster, SW6 (0171 416 6062). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 3pm.

MY OTHER COLOUR AND HER CHILDREN: David Hare's examination of society's conflicts in the form of a play about two women in love. A National Theatre transfer. National Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171 369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Tue-Sat, 3pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) on video

EMPIRE (15): A 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr.). Costume extravaganza. Directed by John Huston. MGM. Huston (0171 352 5096).

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15): A splendid atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in 1947. Directed by John Dahl. MGM. Dahl (0171 352 5096).

UNDERGROUND (15): Entertaining comic epic about war in the Balkans. Directed by Emir Kusturica. The 10th anniversary of Cannes film festival. Chabrol (0171 352 5096).

CASINO (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1940s. Directed by Martin Scorsese. Warner. Scorsese (0171 352 5096).

LONDON GALLERIES

Hayward, Southbank: Art and Film (0171 352 5144). **Museum of Modern Art:** *Art and Film* (0171 352 5144). **National Gallery:** *Art and Film* (0171 352 5144). **British Museum:** *Art and Film* (0171 352 5144).

LA Cinq: *Art and Film* (0171 416 6062). **La Cinq:** *Art and Film* (0171 416 6062). **La Cinq:** *Art and Film* (0171 416 6062).

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OPERA: A Violetta worth hearing; and the British premiere of a 40-year-old American work

A very tough act to follow

Three different Violettas are due at Covent Garden by the end of the season. Andrea Rost, from Budapest, is first in the frame and she throws down a most substantial challenge to those who follow, Angela Gheorghiu and Helena Kelesidi. Rost has not sung *Traviata* here before, but makes it clear that Verdi's heroine is just right for her, vocally and dramatically.

In Act I Rost concentrated on getting the notes, which she did easily in a bright and silvery soprano spun out into the theatre. The first half of her scene - guests departed and ballroom doors now closed - was properly lonely and reflective; the second half brought out the rebel.

Once over that hurdle, Rost the actress took over and revealed a Violetta febrile and fragile but still with resources of decision and determination. It echoed the style of her East European predecessor, Ileana Cotrubas. Both women have the right oval features, with dark pools for eyes when disease takes over. Both can flick their voice with resignation.

That emotion carried full force as Violetta gives up *Alfredo in Dite alla giovine*. Rost sang her aria of renunciation very softly, her hand placed on the chest of Giorgio Germont, half repulsing him and half reassuring him about family values.

In the last act Rost whitened her tone to match the pallid light coming in through the sick-room blinds. Lank-haired and face drained of all colour, Violetta has not long to go as Doctor

La traviata

Covent Garden

Grenville (Mark Beesley) all too obviously observes, and Rost certainly knew how to handle a death in a performance that grew and grew in vocal stature.

Its all-round quality made her partners look stumpy. In his house debut, Ramon Vargas, the Mexican tenor, turned Alfredo into a tousled and gauche figure - fair enough for Act I. The Act II aria and cabaletta carried plenty of vocal emotion and Vargas is a graceful singer, notably in the quiet, tender phrasing of *Parigi, o cara*. But on a couple of occasions he was not at one with his soprano and his acting skills are strictly limited.

Nor does Carlos Alexander rank among opera's top thespians as Giorgio Germont: plenty of voice but very little colour. The decision to include both verses of his Act II cabaletta is dubious, and one or two of the supporting roles were weakly sung. The double staircase in Act I, which once needed Wimpey or someone similar to move it, has now gone, with much saving on the running time as a result. Richard Eyre's staging looks better and better and Flora's salon, marvelously lit, is a dead ringer for the restored Palais Garnier. Carlo Rizzi keeps a real death rattle running through the orchestra at the end.

JOHN HIGGINS



Andrea Rost "in a performance that grew and grew in vocal stature" as she made *La traviata* her own and put Violetta's partners in the shade

Fine silver with a hint of lead

UNIVERSITY College Opera has chosen well in mounting the British premiere of Douglas Moore's opera of 1956. The piece does not overstretch the company in the way that - say - *Russian and Ludmila* did in 1993: there are only three principal roles, with countless small parts to sustain interest, and the orchestral and choral writing are well within the capabilities of non-professionals.

It is conducted with sympathy and understanding by David Drummond, directed with ideal energy by Robert Chevara (the action well downstage, the words easily audible), imaginatively designed by Katrina Lindsay, and strongly cast. It's one of UCO's best shows for years.

The Ballad of Baby Doe

Bloomsbury

Moore (1893-1969) was a respected and prolific composer and his *Baby Doe* has been regularly revived in America since it was first performed: Beverly Sills was a noted exponent of the title role. So why has this "well-made opera" - tuneful, accessible and engaging - taken 40 years to reach us? Because, I fear, it is well-made on the wrong principles. John Latouche's text could serve as a discussion document at a seminar on libretto-writing, but on precisely how *not* to do it.

Incredibly wordy, it insists on telling a story, and if you want a story it's better to buy a novel than go to the opera. The story, closely (falsely) based on fact, is of Horace Tabor, the mine-owning mayor of Leadville, Colorado, in the final decades of the 19th century, the rejection of his first wife, the stern Augusta, his remarriage to the flighty Baby, and the collapse of his fortunes when America abandoned the silver standard.

There is so much plot, conveyed in soap-opera syntax that doesn't actually need music, that Moore is left with no time in just over two hours of music to flesh out what does matter - the relationships between the three.

A pair of perfunctory duets

for Horace and Baby leave them in operatic limbo: by far the most interesting character is Augusta, and the fine Dutch mezzo Klara Uleman seizes the opportunity to dominate the evening with a performance of dignity and as much dramatic truth as Latouche allows. Regina Nathan copes bravely, at times a touch stolidly, with Baby's high-flying vocal lines, and Omar Ebrahim gives Horace everything he has got.

It's a really good show, and a pity it's not a better opera, but collectors will want to collect it (it won't be back in a hurry) at the remaining performances tonight, Friday and Saturday.

RODNEY MILNES

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

ART CONNOISSEUR GALLERY: The only permanent collection of painted master copies in London. Also see 10 & 20 Cent Originals. 80/7, Camden Road, London W1. Tel: 0171 259 3555. Prices 1 & 200.

ART FIRST, First Floor: 2 Cork St, London W1. Tel: 0171 422 5500. Fax: 0171 422 5501. Open 10am-6pm. Mon-Fri. 10am-6pm. Sat. 10am-6pm. Sun. 10am-6pm.

BEAUX ARTS: 22 Cork St, London W1. Tel: 0171 422 5500. Fax: 0171 422 5501. Open 10am-6pm. Mon-Fri. 10am-6pm. Sat. 10am-6pm. Sun. 10am-6pm.

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APOLLO LABRINTH

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VISUAL ART

Recycling in all its glory: the Craft Council sets out to prove that waste can be beautiful



YOUNG ARTS

How the Oily Cart Company reached out to children with profound learning problems

THE TIMES ARTS



JAZZ

From elegant jams to Bartók: Chick Corea reveals his eclectic virtuosity at the Barbican



OFFER

Special prices on Sheila Hancock in Nigel Williams's new play: see the Theatre Club panel

The ultimate in throwaway lines

Teabag handbags, a cloak made of cans: craft's latest movement is towards recycling. Alison Beckett reports

Recycling is the new buzzword in the craft world. Old tea bags, empty bottles, beer cans and chewed toothbrushes have been commandeered for an exhibition held by the Craft Council to prove that waste can be beautiful.

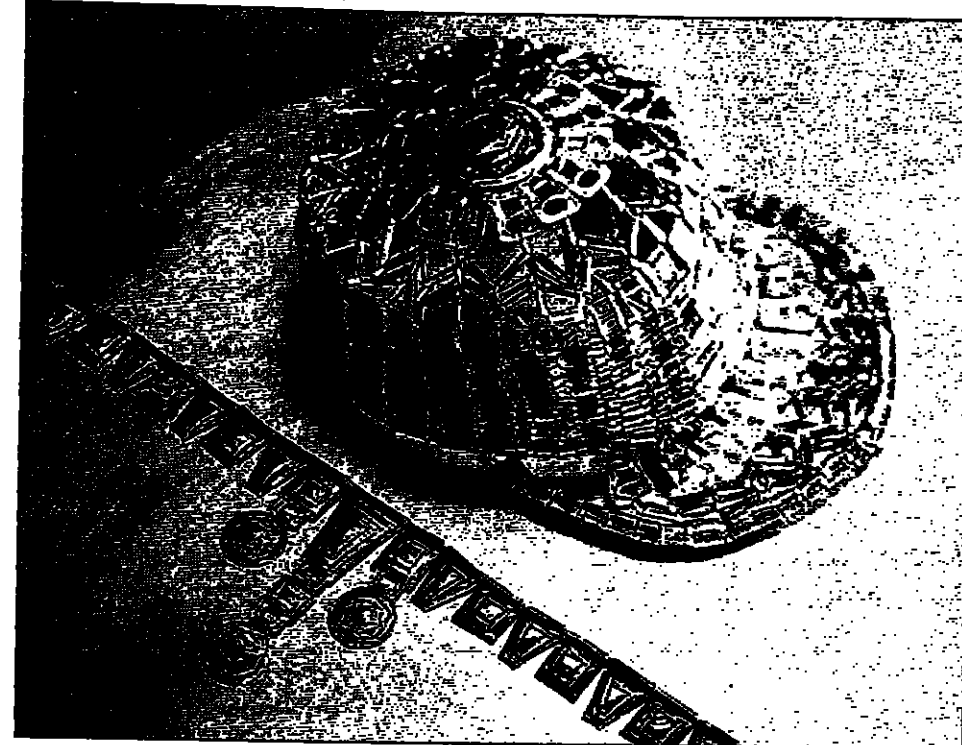
The idea of using everyday objects in an alternative way as a work of art has been growing since Marcel Duchamp exhibited a readymade bottle rack in 1913, and later a urinal. Now ecological concerns (including a European Union Directive that 50 per cent of domestic waste be recycled by the year 2000) and poverty among artist-craftsmen has given the movement fresh impetus.

The exhibition features the work of 27 designers whose inspiration comes mostly from the home. Clare Goddard realised teabags could make more than a quick cuppa after spotting the marbling effect on one that had dried out. So she began turning them into elegant handbags.

The effect, she discovered, varies according to the paper used, the amount of leaves, the size of the bag and whether it has been hung, ironed or left sweating in a tin.

Most items are intended to be useful, especially lighting. But how Deborah Thomas managed to assemble her Northern Fleet Chandelier without hospitalisation is a mystery. The chandelier, worthy of a fairytale ballroom, is composed of thousands of shards of glass collected from overflowing bottle banks, smashed by Thomas and wired back together again.

Recycling whole objects is simpler but more bizarre, like Michael Marriott's Juicy Lucy glass wall light, which used to be a lemon squeezer. Sophie Chandler saved attractive blue bottles of fizzy water for her DIY Chandelier and Tejo Remy a dozen empty milk bottles for a hanging lamp. Remy has dubbed this style Robinson Crusoe — designing your own paradise with what-



Proving that one man's rubbish is another's potentially attractive raw material: (clockwise from top left) cap and geometric necklace made from lager cans by Val Hunt; a fruit bowl made from beer cans by Lois Walpole; a hanging lamp made from blue glass bottles by Sophie Chandler; a tyre chair and milk bottle light by Tejo Remy

ever is available — and it is curiously successful.

The ingenious re-use of aluminium drinking cans includes Jeremy Dent's Can-Slab Bench, made by crushing cans together to form new building material. Val Hunt's Cap and Geometric Necklace began as Guinness and lager cans, while Joanne Tinker amassed a hoard of brightly coloured drinks cans to cut into more than 2,500

pieces and create a shimmering cloak.

Jessica Briggs's jewelled necklaces turn out to be cleverly juxtaposed glass buttons, a refined version of her favourite childhood game — delving into a button tin for treasure. More surprisingly, the chief component of goldsmith Brigitte Turba's bracelets are toothbrushes, which she cuts and polishes to look like precious stones.

The absence of fear of expensive failure encourages bold experiment. The Spring Planting Chair devised by Kristy Wyatt Smith, who trained as an illustrator, is an amusingly naive throne with moving figures. But its construction is ingenious: it is made out of discarded wood from skips and metal shapes cut from tins thrown out with the rubbish by restaurateurs. Lucy Casson is similarly

daring with her sculpture Fierce Animals — metal beasts formed out of lighter fuel cans, all leaping out of a vase on stems like Bird of Paradise flowers, and relying on their exotic impact to disguise the fact that the container is really a battered gas water heater. One of the oldest forms of recycling is quilting. Traditionally, patchwork quilts were made from scraps of material rescued from worn-

out garments and sewn together to form intricate patterns or pictures. Michele Walker has brought about a more contemporary look, albeit as attractive wall hangings rather than bedspreads, by working with growbags, frozen food packaging, photocopies and dustbin liners (already recycled, naturally).

But the biggest challenge to preconception is Thomas Dix-

on's Driving Seat, which he has produced in a small edition. In their former incarnation the seats were traffic bollards, made of a type of plastic which has no scrap value at all. But then, maybe it is possible to change base metal into gold.

Recycling is at the Crafts Council, 44a Pentonville Road, Islington, London N1 0JL (0171-278 7700), until April 21

A joy for ever

IN 1974, the American pianist Chick Corea defined his artistic aims thus: "To incorporate the discipline and beauty of the symphony orchestra and classical composers — the subtlety and beauty of harmony, melody and form — with the looseness and rhythmic dancing quality of jazz and more folkly musics."

The Acoustic Quartet, the band with which Corea is currently touring, is certainly both disciplined and loose. Underpinning the leader's lush, fluent piano are the supple but assertive drums of Gary Novak and the full-bodied bass of James Genus, while front-line solo duties are shared with a fellow Miles

Chick Corea Barbican

Davis alumnus, saxophonist Bob Berg.

For the concert's first half, Corea promised to provide "a varied programme which evolved out of jamming", and after tripping lightly through his own *Humpy Dumpty*, a neat but lively theme with a surprisingly hard edge, he proceeded to do just that. *Monty's Mood* was suitably chunky, packed with both its composer's trademarks — oddly displaced accents, startling juxtapositions of clutter and space — and its interpreter's: rippling runs imbued with an almost playful lyricism. *That Old Feeling* featured another intriguing arrangement, its melody carried alternately by tenor and bass. Corea's sparkling solo work beautifully complemented by Novak's brisk drumming, Berg's tenor swirling through the familiar changes.

It was two Bartók Bagatelles, however, which most closely conformed with Corea's artistic aims. To the pieces' dignity, grace and harmonic subtlety, the Acoustic Band brought not only a stately swing but also — through Berg — an affecting, keening quality faintly reminiscent of Jan Garbarek. Even Corea's own compositions could not quite match the Bartók, either for delicacy or intensity. On this occasion, thanks to a superb band as much as to his own musical eloquence, Corea's object of beauty was attained.

CHRIS PARKER

Hilary Finch on a company that reaches children with learning difficulties

Tickled pink and perky

What is *Tickled Pink*? It is a state of being. It can be a swing in a hammock, a waft of air from a fan or down the bore of a clarinet; the scent of a rose petal, or the touch of velvet. But it has to be pink. It's a drama, but there's no story. Only characters: Rose, who likes to touch; Blush, who is obsessed by smell; Blossom, who sings; and Pinky, who is, well, obsessed by the colour pink.

This is theatre by, with and for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD); and it started with Punch and Judy. Dave Bennett was the musician out front and Tim Webb the puppeteer. Webb had been running a "rugged and robust street show"; then it struck him that this wasn't really what four-year-old children wanted for their birthday parties. He spent £40 on setting up a show about a tree and all the animals who lived in it, and before long it was hot property in nurseries and playgroups. He called his company Oily Cart after the Renault van in which the props were packed. For 15 years, Oily Cart has been touring three new shows a year.

For the past seven years one of the shows has been for children with severe learning difficulties. "Our challenge has always been to identify a particular audience and work on what would interest and stimulate them," Webb says. "And I saw in my travels that certain barriers were not yet being broken through..." *Tickled Pink* is the first ever show for children with PMLD. The new need — and the identifying label — came



Oily Cart "believe the human element is all-important"

about as an increasing number of education authorities integrated more able students into mainstream schools, creating a narrowing ability range in special schools.

It all meant another challenge for Oily Cart. Two factors emerged in Webb's research: "We believe the human element is all-important in what must be an entirely interactive approach. Where it's not appropriate for the 'drama' to be plotted, character is central. So we stay in character throughout. And each one is clearly delineated through the senses. It's a visceral, rather than a narrative approach, if you like. Each of our characters is sense-obsessed."

Oily Cart sets up a pavilion of hanging tents and marquees, enclosed and secure spaces saturated in colour (hollyhock pink, candy-floss pink, penumina and flamingo pink), and heaped with soft,

scented pillows and rugs. Outside, from three "parasols of pleasure", dangle any number of bells, gongs and cymbals, all wrapped and plaited in sensuous fabrics. And all pink. The four members of Webb's team look like travellers on the Silk Road, merchants from Samarkand. With rings on their fingers and bells on their toes, they ensure that music accompanies the children wherever they go. They wait for the school buses to arrive; play the stu-

dents into school; encourage them to touch and sound out the parasols. It may be only the brush of a velvet-covered bell against a cheek; it could, in the case of a more able child, be a matter of preventing a meal being eaten out of a Chinese gong bowl. Then the students are led into the silken tents, rocked in hammocks, fanned by pink punkah wallahs as a distant marimba sounds. Singing is individually focused: names and senses are identified and sung out.

Five-year-old Ahmed, who has been running round all morning, attempting to destroy everything in sight, is suddenly pacified. He has responded to the repeated verbal cue of a clarinet; he is, for once, in control, rather than being controlled. Tina, whose autistic tendencies cause her to look at another person only reluctantly and sideways on, is beaming full in the face of Blossom and the breeze of her pink fan.

Sarah Melman, senior teacher at Fulham's Jack Tizard School, has been working with children with severe learning difficulties for 19 years. She admits that she had never before met a theatre group who could meet the needs of every child in her school, from three to 19 years old. "It's something to do with the combination of people in their team, their endless research, their strong focus on colour, and the way in which they give the children time to respond," she says. "Oily Cart has touched children for whom I'd begun to think there might be no way through."

Oily Cart, 309 Welbach House, The Business Village, Broomhill Road, London SW18 4JQ (0181-877 0743)

Nationalism echoes country sounds

This is the third of our complimentary CDs, brought to you by The Times, in association with Classics Direct. Nationalism began to establish itself as a movement about the middle of the 19th century when composers became eager for their music to embody elements that proclaimed its nationality. They incorporated folk melodies or dancing rhythms in work that asserted national traditions. Dvorak was one of the earliest composers of such music and his *Slavonic Dances* as well as Berwald's *Singuliere* and Franck's symphony in D minor are due to be released in this country by The Royal Philharmonic later this year, so Times readers can hear them first.

NATIONALISM TRACK LISTING

1. Franck symphony in D minor. Conductor: Ramond Leppard (1919); 2. Dvorak symphony No 9 in E minor *New World*. Conductor: Paavo Jarvi (11.12); 3. Dvorak *Slavonic Dances*. Conductor: Douglas Bostock (7.7); 4. Berwald symphony No 3 in C major *Singuliere*. Conductor: Ivor Bolton (9.38); 5. Grieg piano concerto in A minor. Conductor: James Judd, piano Ronan O'Hara (10.21); 6. Grieg *Peer Gynt* suite No 1 *In the Hall of the Mountain King*. Conductor: Mark Ermler (2.25). The CD has a total playing time of 60.21. Offer closes April 8, 1996 and is subject to availability.

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

LONDON

Royal Court Theatre
 March 21-23, 26, 28
 ●TELEVISION producer Ray Cooney is not having a good day. The star guest for his talk show has pulled out, his hen takes up residence in every pub he passes, and his assistant calls her mother 30 times a day. What happens next is the subject of *Harry and Me*, starring Ron Cook, Sheila Hancock and Dudley Sutton, and written by Nigel Williams, author of *Class Enemy* and *Sugar and Spice*. Theatre Club members can save 25 per cent on top-price tickets (normally £15). Tel 0171-730 1745 to book

Royal Opera House

April 6
 ●TICKETS £25 (normally £36) — £16.50 for children under 18 (normally £18) — to see the 28th performance of the Royal Ballet's production of *Adolphe*. Adam's *Giselle*. Sensitive staging by Peter Wright, and with designs by John F. Macfarlane, this production captures both the rustic and the supernatural aspects of this well-loved Romantic work. Tel 0171-304 4000

CAMBRIDGE

May 3-5
 ●THERE are still a few places left for the Theatre Club's opera weekend in Cambridge. The price — £192 per person — includes two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation, tickets to English Touring Opera's performances of *Rigoletto* and *Werther* — and a punt on the river. For more details and to book, tel 01223 351241

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

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London, Queen Elizabeth Hall, March 30. Normally £7.50 to £10.50. Tel 0171-9604342

Northampton, Royal Theatre, April 2. Normally £6 to £10. Tel 01604 32533

Leicester, Phoenix Arts, April 25. Normally £7.50. Tel 0116-255 4854

Wakefield, Theatre Royal & Opera House, May 3, 4. Normally £4.50 to £8.50. Tel 01924 266556

Cambridge, The Junction, May 15. Normally £8. Tel 01223 412600

Birmingham, Adrian Boult Hall, June 3. Normally £8.50. Tel 0121-605 6666

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A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building, likely a school or institutional structure, surrounded by trees and a fence. The building has a complex roofline with multiple gables and a prominent central section. It is surrounded by mature trees and a low fence in the foreground. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost woodcut-like appearance.

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الحمد لله

Rachel Kelly finds out how the rising number of divorces is bolstering certain sectors of the slack housing market

One sale, two purchases

The Prince and Princess of Wales's decision this month to agree to divorce has caused the grander estate agents to salivate. Divorce drives the property market. When the rich divorce, they usually sell the family home, divide the proceeds and set up two new homes. That means one sale, and two purchases: three welcome commissions in a slack market.

Of course, the Wales's case is exceptional. Kensington Palace is not going to be flogged, nor is the Prince of Wales likely to buy a new house. But the Princess might. Unless she buys privately, some agent somewhere will make a handsome commission.

In a market in which the number of annual sales has fallen from two million to one million a year, according to Central Statistical Office figures, divorce guarantees valuable business. The happily married decide to stay put rather than to sell at a loss.

The numbers are going estate agents' way. One in three couples, having jointly bought a home, ends up

divorced or splitting up. Wealthy divorcees also feed the rental market. Penny Parr-Head, director of the London agent Cluttons Residential Lettings, says that often the husband moves out, leaving the woman and children in the family home.

Such men should take care with their tax arrangements. Principal private residences are free from capital gains tax on any disposal. But beware: if one partner has moved out of the home and has been out for some time, he may have trouble arguing, in order to avoid CGT on his share of the proceeds, that it is still his main abode.

Ms Parr-Head says: "The increase in the divorce rates has affected the rental market more in terms of demand than of supply. The average rental for this type of person is £350 a week. They will either rent for six months or a year. At the end, they tend to buy, or in some cases actually to return to the marital home."

For those on lower incomes, especially for those with children, the process is more difficult. The value of their assets

may not be enough to equal the cost of two new homes. The result usually is that the wife stays in the family home and the husband moves out.

Courts sometimes decide on a division of assets but allow the husband a deferred interest. He is entitled to a share of the proceeds of selling the family home, but the sale is deferred, probably until the children have finished their education.

Other couples cannot afford to move at all if the mortgage is greater than the house's worth. What was once their castle has become their prison. Whether rich or poor, at every stage of buying or renting new property all divorced couples must resolve similar dilemmas. The most obvious is: who will be responsible for selling the house?

The courts usually help couples to decide. Agents act after a court settlement, which will have decided which party has been given the conduct of the sale, although some couples won't apply for a divorce until after a sale so they can work out the proceeds.

Young children are the courts' chief concern. They need a home, which is usually (though not necessarily) with the mother. She tends to end up staying in the house and therefore handling the sale.

That proved the case for James Smith and his wife, who after 30 years of marriage decided last year to divorce. They have three children, aged 26, 25, and 21, and jointly own a 16th-century Suffolk timbered house worth just under £300,000.

Mr Smith says: "My wife is handling the sale, and keeps me in touch. It's important the house is lived in, and my wife keeps the house nice and clean and tidy with fresh flowers. I would advise other couples that you should be careful if a woman is selling the house on her own. We have a system of appointments verified by



Twice-divorced Liz McCallum and Liberty, her daughter: "My advice would be not to over-extend yourself"

the agents. There is no room for casual appointments."

A second question is whether the couple own the house as joint tenants or tenants in common. With the former either party's half-share goes to the other on death. But with the latter each partner separately owns, and can dispose of, his or her share. Many divorces arrange to change to tenants in common.

The actual sale can bring problems. Some couples agree that neither wants to build a

new relationship in a house with bad memories, and decide to make a fresh start. But some disgruntled partners have been known to scotch a sale by referring to "the pig farm down the road".

John Gibson of Savills describes a case in which a partner instructed another company to put the property on the market for £100,000 more than the asking price set by the original agent. The partner feared the original estate agent had undervalued, and the agents

ended up in court defending their valuations.

Others are miserable at selling the one place in which they find solace. William Edwards, a surveyor, and his wife Susan had been married for a year before they decided to divorce. At the time, they had no children and were living in Hampstead, north London. They had taken out a joint mortgage on a two-bedroom flat when they decided to split permanently.

Mr Edwards recalls: "The

whole process of separating, dividing the possessions and selling our flat was one of the most stressful of my life. It was miserable to be selling just as I felt like licking my wounds in the privacy of my own home."

A house's sales appeal is not helped by the fact of a failed relationship. In a fragile market, mere mention of divorce may be enough to put off a buyer who worries that one party will pull out of the deal. Giles Hoskins of Winkworth estate agents says that many sales

fall through because of legal technicalities. Kevin Bury-Gray of Alex Neil, a Docklands agent, adds that sales are delayed because of the need to talk to two lots of solicitors on the sellers' side.

Sales can drag on. In a boom, the house can be sold in a matter of weeks. Not so in a slump, when the emotional torment of staying in a house full of unhappy memories or with an estranged partner can last for months.

Some names have been changed

How I coped with divorce

LIZ McCALLUM, 46, runs lettings for John D. Wood & Co, estate agent in Wimbledon, and has twice been divorced. She now lives with Rupert, her son, and Liberty, her daughter, in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

"Both times I got divorced, I moved out of the family home. In the first case, we had the house valued as if it were for sale, and my husband bought me out of my share of the house. It was relatively easy because that was in the early 1980s and the house had escalated in value. The advantage was that we didn't squander any assets on solicitors' bills."

"My advice would be not to over-extend yourself. When I first divorced, I was buying with a new partner. Second time round, I was moving out on my own so I had exactly half the value of the marital home to spend. You feel emotionally battered and you feel a need to keep up appearances so you buy a big property. But it is important not to over-burden yourself and to provide a cosy and comfortable environment for the children. I think you and the children can feel more secure in a smaller house. You really should be careful if you're going it alone to safeguard what capital you've got. Now I live in a compact house, with four bedrooms costing £170,000."

SELLING THE FAMILY HOME

THE London estate agent Chesterfield offers the following advice:

□ Give yourselves plenty of time and be prepared to rent houses to bridge the gap if you cannot find anything immediately suitable. Do not make rash decisions in a desperate attempt to be settled.

□ Appoint a solicitor to deal with the sale if the parties are not speaking to each other. Acrimonious couples who deny agents and potential buyers the opportunity to view the house to spite the other half

hold up the sale and make it difficult for the agent.

□ Decide what price you want for the house and know what price you are both prepared to accept as the bottom line. Couples who quibble about accepting offers can irritate buyers into pulling out.

□ Be honest and tell your estate agent the reason for the sale. Splitting up could help a purchase because people realise that there is a genuine reason for the sale.

□ If you have children, sell during term time and move in the holidays.

Play away in the Caribbean

Rachel Kelly reports on the luxury homes by a new golf course in Barbados

It is, golfers joke, a fair way to go. But the Royal Westmoreland golf course and its surrounding homes in Barbados are proving a magnet for wealthy British buyers.

More than 30 homes around the 27-hole course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr, have already been sold, at prices of between £275,000 and more than £8 million.

The £350-million 480-acre scheme for 240 homes is the brainchild of the Rooney family. The main investor is William Rooney, a Yorkshire businessman who made his fortune in Spring Ram, a fitted kitchens company. His son Julian is the golf club's managing director.

Mr Rooney says: "The reason that people are buying here is because they know who their neighbours are and there are no public roads crossing the course." (A disadvantage, he might have added, of Royal Westmoreland's main rival, the Sandy Lane golf course on the west coast of the island.)

The entrance to the club, a mile up the hill from the sea, is guarded by an attendant in a starched uniform. Newly planted tropical flowers and acres of golfing green stretch ahead. Several greens are set in former coral quarries.

Membership costs an initial £11,000 to join, plus £2,300 a year, and is restricted to homeowners and their families, with 120 members drawn from Bajans and honorary members, including Sir Gary Sobers. Ten hotels have negotiated rights for their guests to play at the club. One is the Colony Club, part of the St James Beach group of hotels.

The houses have views of the fairways and the azure



"The Begonia", one of the more luxurious houses in the Westmoreland development, was designed by Ian Morrison

Caribbean beyond, with pride of place given to the clubhouse with its soaring roof covered in white sailcloth. A sports centre encircling a 25-metre swimming pool is being built.

There are four main categories of houses. Thirty terraced villas, with two and three bedrooms, split-level living areas and views of the course and the sea, are priced from around £275,000; the four-bedroom plantation homes resemble colonial mansions and cost from £380,000; and the detached courtyard villas set in quarter-acre plots with pools start at £420,000. Finally, some of the larger detached homes, costing from £715,000, are set in half-acre plots, with a "media" room wired for telephone, fax and computer.

The houses were designed by two architects. Ian Morrison is behind many successful hotel projects in the West Indies, including the nearby Colony Club and Royal Pavilion. His signature houses are light and airy, using local coral stone. Inside, the houses have shell stone floors, wall lights and quoins in the local stone. The ceilings are made of Bajan pickled pine covered in a flaked whitewash.

The second architect is Larry Warren. His smart, colonial-style houses have vaulted roofs and use the same

coral and shell stone and pickled pine.

The aim is to attract captains of industry, Mr Rooney says. A typical buyer is 55, a businessman who may recently have floated a company, with a passion for golf. Buyers do not have to pay the 10 per

cent property purchase tax, and the company can help with local mortgages for up to 50 per cent of the price.

Most buyers will probably spend only two or three months a year at Royal Westmoreland, letting the houses for the remainder. The com-

pany claims healthy rental incomes of around 4.85 per cent a year on the basis of 24 let weeks a year, taking all outgoings into account, including staff. Royal Westmoreland staff will oversee and organise such rentals. For a longer letting season, there are returns from 8 to 10 per cent.

The course is unrivalled in the West Indies, but will face competition from other golfing developments in Florida, Portugal and the South of France. Pont Royal, a development in Provence between Avignon and Aix-en-Provence, has sold more than 120 properties and is only an hour's flight away from Britain.

The Pont Royal course is set in 450 acres of countryside and is 30 minutes from the airport at Marseille. The course, designed by Seve Ballesteros, has 18 holes. Other facilities include a 600-metre swimming pool, tennis courts, fishing and horse-riding.

The flight to Barbados may be just four hours on Concorde, but for most people it is a long hike. However Royal Westmoreland has the advantage over many European locations of unbeatable weather and a magical setting.

● Royal Westmoreland: 0171-355 5028; Pont Royal 01772-0033



Altered design: Sir Robin and Lady Buchanan

Golf with sea views

SIR ROBIN BUCHANAN and his wife Naomi are among the first buyers at Royal Westmoreland. The golfing and Barbados enthusiasts, who come from Bath, bought a £755,000 home with split-level sitting rooms and views of the sea.

Sir Robin, a former busi-

nessman who was knighted for his work for the National Health Service, says: "We bought the house when it was just stakes in the ground." By buying at such an early stage the Buchanans were able to alter the design to accommodate a bigger shower.

Cash-squeezed council could gain £2m from scheme

Oxford residents must wait till the end of this month for the result of one of the most important planning applications to go before the city council. Developers have applied for permission for a new £17 million leisure complex near the railway station. The council stands to make at least £2 million in "planning gain" as "fund other schemes."

The decision, due last month, was delayed till the Royal Fine Art Commission saw the plans. The money from the sale of the six-and-a-half-acre Expens site, jointly owned by the Labour council and Railtrack, would help to fund small projects under threat from spending cuts. Opponents of the scheme, however, fear that the council will bow to financial pressure to grant permission despite residents' objections.

Richard Davy, a Liberal

Oxford leisure complex awaits planning vote

Democrat councillor, brands the scheme for a 1,800-capacity nightclub, five restaurants, a bingo hall, a multiscreen cinema and a riverside pub, by developers Pentith, as "banal, tasteless and boring."

"It's difficult for the planning committee to keep a clear head about this or act in the best interests of urban design when it is under pressure to generate money," he said.

The dilemma is a classic one affecting planning decisions up and down the country: cash-squeezed councils keen on developments which will boost their coffers versus residents sensitive to potentially unattractive schemes.

"It's not that we are against a leisure scheme for Oxford,"

Mr Davy continues. "It's just that we are against this particular type of development. We would prefer something more interesting and in scale."

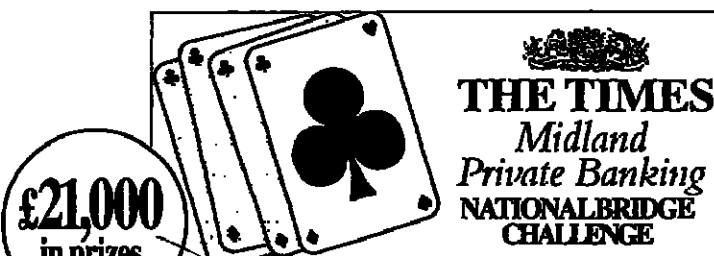
The site is currently used as a coach and lorry park, and disused allotments, and is out of the view of any Oxford college. John Arnold, director of property and technical services, said: "The council needs the money from this sale to continue its capital programme. I don't see there's a problem in having modern buildings close to historic ones."

Though no colleges have objected, local residents and John Patten, the MP, have expressed concern about the development at two public meetings and, in response, Pentith has responded by making 60 changes to its original proposals.

RACHEL KELLY

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Correction

Last week the map of Scotland showed Glenfeshie in Aberdeenshire instead of Inverness-shire. The Strathaird Estate is in Skye, not Aberdeenshire.

Bath given go-ahead to secure future

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BATH, the leading club in England, believes that, by the time March is out, its squad of international players will be secured and their long-term future assured by the advent of fresh investors. Bath's optimism even embraces a new future for the much-criticised city centre playing arena at the Recreation Ground.

Buoyed by the overwhelming decision by members on Monday night to turn the club into a limited public company, Bath officials yesterday dismissed suggestions that they had been slow to embrace the consequences of professionalism in rugby union. "I'm pleased we haven't rushed into anything," John Hall, the director of rugby, said.

"We have sought advice, we have put an in-depth business plan together and the meeting showed how professionally it was put over." Of the 820 members who attended the special general meeting at the Bath Pavilion, 802 voted for change, with only six against, though Hall's confidence will also derive from the club's massive playing reputation, which acts as a lure for ambitious players.

"We will now be able to talk very positively to investors to restructure the financial side of the club and John can talk positively to the players in putting contracts together," Richard Mawditt, the club chairman, said. Within hours of the decision being made public, a Wall Street business agency had contacted Bath, raising hopes of a substantial injection of money.

Merely to handle next season's wage bill, for playing and administrative staff, Bath need to increase the annual turnover of £2 million by more than 50 per cent. If plans for the development of the

Recreation Ground win local authority acceptance, the club must find a further £6 million to establish the 15,000-capacity stadium it seeks.

However, Hall emphasised the need for long-term agreements with players. Though not excluding outside recruitment, he wants to retain a squad that, with 17 internationals, has been susceptible to predatory raids all season and invest in youth. "I would like to think that, as a top club, we would be offering the best packages," Hall said. "That's not just remuneration, it's what I call a lifestyle package."

Bath contracts, like those of most senior clubs, envisage a clause allowing for England requirements, a situation that remains to be resolved. Hall does not see a place for the proposed Anglo-Welsh league. He believes in a strong domestic structure in England and European competition. Nor does he accept the need for England's premier division to be extended from ten to 12 clubs, as proposed by some members of English First Division Clubs Ltd, now chaired by Donald Kerr, of Harlequins, after the resignation of Leicester's over-committed chief executive, Peter Wheeler.

The Welsh and French unions appear at odds over representative rugby for leading players: while Welsh sources suggest that players involved with clubs outside Wales might not be selected by their country, a French politician said any such bar would mean an appearance before the European Court of Justice. Jean-Michel Gonzalez, the Bayonne hooker, is restored to the France XV to play Wales in Cardiff on Saturday because Marc de Rougemont, of Toulouse, has an ankle injury.

Nielsen turns back on shuttle diplomacy

Andrew Longmore
meets both sides
in the war of
words that is
dividing badminton

A RUMBLING dispute between the Badminton Association of England (BA of E) and Anders Nielsen, its national champion, could come to a head during the showpiece tournament of the season, the All-England Championships, which begin today in Birmingham. Realistically, this is the last chance for Nielsen to qualify for a place in the team for the Olympic Games in Atlanta. To do so, he has to be higher in the world rankings than his compatriot, Peter Knowles, by midnight on March 31.

Nielsen, a Commonwealth gold medal-winner and twice national champion, claims that the BA of E has put obstacles in his way of his attempt to qualify. There have been threats of legal action and accusations of mistreatment and personal vendetta, sounds of discord quite out of keeping with the genteel swirl of racket on shuttlecock.

"They've stopped my funding so I couldn't go to tournaments," Nielsen said, "but I know I'm right and I know the truth and that's what is driving me on."

The controversy dates back to last summer, when the top British players made an agreement with the association to play in four of the five domestic grand slam tournaments. Nielsen was scheduled to play in the first of them, in Perth at the end of August, and the last three, but a long-standing knee injury, which required cortisone injections, forced him to pull out of the Perth event.

The official BA of E doctor, though, said that technically Nielsen was fit and refused to grant him the medical certificate required under the new agreement. Nielsen disagreed, did not play and was punished by the withdrawal of his Olympic Association and BA of E funding.

Nielsen claims that his offer to make up his quota of tournaments by playing the



Nielsen has Olympic qualification in view at the All-England Championships

last four grand slam events was refused, but when he also withdrew from the third of them, preferring to compete for Olympic qualifying points in Bulgaria, his initial three-month funding ban was extended for a further two months.

In total, Nielsen has forfeited about £8,000, hardly a fortune but not pin money either in a cash-strapped sport. Either way, molehills of money have long since been

buried beneath mountains of principle. Nielsen's sense of persecution has been sharpened by a subsequent ultrasound examination which has revealed a cyst behind both knees. He will need an operation as soon as his season — and probably his career — is over.

"They wanted to make a scapegoat of someone to prove they were enforcing the rules about players pulling out and I think they wanted it to be me.

The whole thing has become a farce," he said.

The BA of E's point is that, having made the rules, it had to stick by them. "There was a strong feeling that medical certificates had been too freely available. Players were pulling out of domestic events and playing elsewhere a few days later," Geoffrey Snowdon, chief executive of the BA of E, said. "Anders should think about that very carefully," Snowdon added.

It is getting quite nasty, which just happens to be the way Nielsen likes it.

done by. There is no question of vindictiveness. We just find his attitude very sad."

Nielsen has never been frightened to speak his mind, nor to follow his own star during his ten-year career. He is from combative stock. His mother is Heather Ward, the 1959 All-England champion, his father, Egon, a tough Danish timber merchant. One of his brothers is a high-flying fund manager on Wall Street. If the BA of E had thought gentle persuasion or the big stick might pull its errant champion into line, it should have listened more closely to his City trader's rwang and winner-take-all philosophy and looked at his record, which is littered with gallant victories against the odds.

At 29, this is his last hurrah before the call of the City is answered. Nielsen is typically forthright about the state of the game he is about to leave. "It's a joke," he said. "The

'I know I'm right and I know the truth. That is what is driving me on'

people in charge don't understand the sport. I'll be stopping soon. Darren Hall [the British No 1] is 31, he'll be stopping soon and there are no youngsters coming through. Then what? It's disastrous and to me it is not going to improve until things change dramatically. "The players are behind him, he says, and, privately, so are many of BA of E officials. "No one will say what they really think, will they?"

In the meantime, badminton's least favourite son has a point to prove. Realistically, he needs to reach the quarter-final to close the gap on Knowles and even if he qualifies on court, the BA of E could declare him not "in good standing" with his association and choose someone else for Atlanta. "Anders should think about that very carefully," Snowdon added.

It is getting quite nasty, which just happens to be the way Nielsen likes it.

Bradbury's chance to emphasise Olympic credentials

By RICHARD EATON

JULIE BRADBURY, the doubles specialist from Oxfordshire who is hoping to win Great Britain's first Olympic badminton medal this summer, is seeded to reach two semi-finals in the Yonex All-England Championships, which start at The National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, today.

Bradbury and Joanne Wright, who are ranked No 3 in the world, are seeded for a women's doubles semi-final against Ge Fei and Gu Jun, of China, whom they have taken the full distance before but never beaten, while Bradbury and Simon Archer, ranked No 5 in the world, are seeded for a mixed doubles semi-final with Trikus Heryanto and Minarti Timur, of Indonesia, whom they beat four months ago.

The key to Bradbury's improvement at 28 has been the acquisition of her first decent contract, with Yonex, enabling her to give up her part-time job and play and train full-time. "I never imagined I could get as far as this, but now I think either of my partnerships is good enough for an All-England title," she said. Much may depend how well she has recovered from an attack of flu last weekend.

Darren Hall's recent revival has made the former European champion, from Essex, the first home player seeded in singles for three years, but he is in the same section as the world champion, Heryanto Arbi.

The women's singles could provide a final All-England title for Susi Susanti, who plans to retire after defending her Olympic title and marry the other Olympic singles champion, Allan Budi Kusuma.

A record entry of 375 competitors from 36 nations is packed fuller than ever with world and Olympic champions, partly because the Olympic qualifying cut-off date is in two weeks' time.

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Yorke sure to present Forest with problems

By Peter Ball

THE FA Cup quarter-finals are staggering slowly towards their conclusion. Monday night produced the sixth round's first winners in Manchester United; tonight, the fourth tie at last begins when Nottingham Forest meet Aston Villa at the City Ground — although, in Forest's recent mood, whether there will be a definite outcome is far from certain.

Cup matches are coming thick and fast for Forest at the moment, with their fifth-round replay at Tottenham Hotspur and this tie sandwiched between two UEFA Cup quarter-final matches with Bayern Munich. If they are not sweeping anyone aside, they are proving obdurate.

Whether that will be enough against a Villa side beaten only twice in 16 games — both times by Liverpool — is another matter. Even though they have been without Johnson and, until Saturday, Draper in recent games, Villa have been attacking in exciting style, with Yorke in rare form, and they will set Forest's well-organised defence some difficult problems.

However, since their 3-0 drubbing at Anfield ten days ago, Villa's defence has begun to look less secure. The absence of the influential Southgate (injured) and Townsend (suspended) give Forest further reasons for optimism, although a replay, which would take place three days after the Coca-Cola Cup final, should not be ruled out.

Forest may be forced to use the midfield player, Chris Bart-Williams, as a centre back, for five exhausting games in 15 days have taken an inevitable toll in injuries. "Such is his ability, he could play anywhere with distinction," Frank Clark, the Forest manager, said yesterday. Steve Stone, substituted against Tottenham because of "sheer exhaustion", and Stuart Pearce are expected to pass fitness tests.

If the game is drawn,

Manchester United will be the only team sure of a place in the semi-final for another week and, as Alex Ferguson, the United manager, confessed afterwards, they needed more than a helping of luck to overcome Southampton on Monday evening. Luck — and having Eric Cantona in their ranks.

It was easy at the time to dismiss his goal, which tilted the balance United's way, as a simple one, but as Ferguson pointed out, the skill involved in his ability to find space at the far post should not be overlooked. He began by making the obvious run towards the centre of goal as Giggs cut up the byline, but then, as defenders too headed towards the ball, he peeled off to be all alone.

A similar move at Newcastle a week earlier had left him in space to score the decisive goal there. The book-makers' odds of 5-1 for the double are not generous, but the possibility is certainly a live one with Cantona in his present goalscoring mood.

"You need match-winners if you are going to achieve real success," Matt Le Tissier said as he stood in the pouring rain outside Old Trafford after the game. "Eric can be the difference between them winning the double and missing out on it. He is class."

On this occasion, Cantona's goal provoked an outstanding response from Southampton, who found Schmeichel in commanding form. Unlucky to have had a thumping header by Shipperley ruled out before half-time and with Le Tissier some way from his best, they took the game to United with such purpose that the club's biggest crowd for four years began to buzz with unrest.

Southampton, who went out with honour, are back in Manchester for an even more important game on Saturday, against City at Maine Road. On Monday's form, they should be able to face that with some confidence.



Spencer, Cambridge's inspiration in yesterday's university rugby league match, is, for once, stopped in his tracks. Photograph: Des Jensen

Oxford destroyed by Spencer's virtuosity

Cambridge Univ 42
Oxford Univ 18

By Christopher Irvine

IT HAS almost become a tradition for the annual University rugby league match. On his record fourth appearance yesterday, he managed it again at Old Deer Park, Richmond, scoring 22 points, including a hat-trick of tries, in maintaining Cambridge's dominance of the fixture since 1993.

The bad news for Oxford is that Spencer plans on being

around next year. In harness at half back with Dave Green, a former Featherstone Rovers Academy player, Spencer, the former Great Britain amateur international, had too much trickery up his sleeve for Oxford. Apart from a late burst of tries by Ferguson, Viney and the deserving Thomas, often a lone presence in an ill-organised defence, Oxford were overruled.

Everything in Cambridge's attack revolved around the ubiquitous Spencer. His distribution skills were better than his tactical kicking, but Oxford had no answer to either once Spencer had

squeezed over in the tenth minute for the first of his side's eight tries.

Oxford's only score in the first-half was a penalty by Ferguson. The floodgates opened on the half-hour as Spencer put Green clear, a try followed swiftly by the pair combining again to despatch Perry for his first try.

A demoralised Oxford were breached almost at will in the second period. Aldridge took advantage of a big overlap. Spencer scythed through for his second try and bolted up the right for his third to add to a 60-metre score by Higgins. Spencer, the last rugby

league player to be banned in rugby union's pre-professional era, is back playing both codes for his university. The words "banned by professionalism", to condemn Spencer's appearance in five games for London Crusaders, mercifully, are no longer part of the rugby union's language.

SCORERS: Cambridge: Vase Spencer (5), Perry (2), Green, Aldridge, Higgins, Goss, Sonner (3), Ockford, Tristram, Ferguson, Thomas, Viney, Goss, Ferguson (2).
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: S Aldridge (Rugby and Trinity), N Thomas (Bradford GS and Jesuit), A Cheetham (Newcastle-under-Lyme and St Catherine's), I Higgins (Glasgow Academy and Emmanuel), A Whitaker (Wright and Magdalen), A Spencer (Preston, Warrington and St John's), D Green (New College, Portliff and St Catherine's), D Somers (Tiffin and Cusack), N Perry (Rusell and Penrhos).

D Lee Long (Gordon Vale State, Australia and Clare), N Spencer (Rugby GS and St John's), A Harris (Sharnbrook and Embsay, Cusack), J Stafford (Wellington College and Cusack), S Young (Canford and Penrhos), S Williams (RGS Colchester and Wotton), J Cooke (Newington College, Australia and St Edmund's), R Bramley (CEOS Walsfield and St Edmund's).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: N Vasey (Gresham and Penrhos), R Thomas (Clifton and St Peter's), S Rush (Parrer and Mansfield), A Walker (Gresham and Trinity), A Park (Manchester GS and St Peter's), J Knight (Mansfield and Gresham), S Ferguson (Nottingham HS and Mansfield), C Champion (Amold and Queens, Cusack), D Goss (Anglo-Indian and Trinity), A Longthorpe (Christ Church, Oxford and St Hugh's), J Hobart (St Edward's, Oxford and Cusack), M Hall (Bolton GS and Queens), S Subramaniam (Warrington and Penrhos), S Stevens (North and Penrhos), A Westcott (Radley and Balliol), R Harrison (Tonbridge and Balsham).
Referee: J McGregor (Huddersfield).

Boardman bows to power of Jalabert

CHRIS BOARDMAN paid tribute yesterday to the power of Laurent Jalabert after the Frenchman had taken the overall lead on the third stage of the eight-day Paris to Nice race. The British Olympic pursuit champion finished third after being edged out by Lance Armstrong, of the United States. Jalabert, who began a successful run last year with victory in this race, completed the undulating 107-mile stage in 4hr 4min 25sec.

"There was nothing I could do," Boardman said. "He opened a 200-metre gap with awesome speed and if I had tried to chase, I would have blown up. If he gets more than 30 seconds on me before the Nice time-trial on Sunday, I can't see me beating him."

"It's no good anyone using the humidity and air conditioning as an excuse because the tables in the UK have also been on the slow side for the last four events. Someone needs their bottom spanked," he said. Joe Swail and John Higgins joined Hendry in the last sixteen after victories over Dave Harold and Graeme Dott respectively.

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India aim to ride out Sri Lanka storm

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CALCUTTA

THE World Cup has lost its holders, it has lost its most impressively organised team and it has lost England. Fear not, for it has not lost its heart. Those who remain, as this previously ponderous tournament sprints into its semi-final stage, present intriguing possibilities.

There is the prospect of a final between Sri Lanka, the emerging power, and Australia, who controversially refused to play them in Colombo. No love lost there. There is a chance that West Indies, their management team dismissed in mid-competition, will respond with the ultimate gesture of defiance.

Finally, and most beguiling of all, there is potential for India to lift the trophy in Lahore, such an unimaginable contingency for the introspective cricket followers of Pakistan that it would doubtless occur in a silent, emptying stadium and receive a grudging paragraph in the next day's newspapers.

The fallout from last weekend in Bangalore, where India exorcised their ghosts with victory over the enemy next door, will not abate yet. Benazir Bhutto's Government has promised an inquiry into Pakistan's defeat (perhaps it will decide that Waqar Younis's length was a shade too full) and among the known casualties of the result are one heart-attack victim and a tragic student who first turned his Kalashnikov on his television set and then on himself.

These are the consequences of fanaticism rather than mere passion, which is where India and Pakistan part company. In Pakistan, the cricket culture

is dominated by the national team, which is why the crowds, even for two quarter-finals, have been pitiful and why the Gaddafi Stadium may not fill even for the final on Sunday.

Indians simply appreciate cricket — except, of course, when it is being played by Pakistan. For all the drawbacks of this tournament, all the elementary matters left unattended in the obsession for making money (India's place the World Cup sits most comfortably because it is here that it means the most).

A political rally, called on Saturday in protest at the presence of the Pakistan team,



had to be abandoned through lack of interest. Everyone was watching the match. Two days later, in Madras, 45,000 saw Australia play New Zealand, creating an atmosphere for a "neutral" game that could have been reproduced nowhere else.

Today, at Calcutta's vast Eden Gardens, more than twice that number will watch the first of the semi-finals. It was here, a month ago, that the opening ceremony fell so flat that a state minister demanded the arrest of the organisers for wasting public money. All will be forgiven if India beat Sri Lanka in the kind of high-scoring game indicated by form and style.

Nobody is quite convinced about Sri Lanka. This is not to belittle them, for the manner of their victories has been breathtaking. It is just that within their audacious, un-subtle philosophy of batting, a game cannot only be won inside 20 overs, it can also be lost. One day, playing as they do, they may be bowled out for 75. It might even happen today.

The alternative, of course, is that they could chase 350 and win. They have at No 7 a Test opener, Roshan Mahanama, who had barely got to the middle before enjoying some gentle match practice at England's expense. Sanath Jayasuriya was a bit-part player in the last World Cup; now, he is one of the personalities of the tournament, a left-hander of such unsuspected power, range and timing that no team has yet worked out how or where to bowl at him.

India defended a total capably against Pakistan, who began their innings at Sri Lanka speed, and in Anil Kumble, they have the most influential bowler of the competition so far. They also have Sachin Tendulkar, who is finding himself unexpectedly upstaged by Mark Waugh. Eden Gardens, with 100,000 inside, might inspire a response.

INDIA (from): M Ashrauddin (captain), S R Tendulkar, N S Sidhu, S V Menon, V G Kambli, A D Jadhav, N R Murali, J Srinivas, Kumble, S V Prasad, S V V Ramesh, A R Kapoor, M Prabhakar, S A Antao.

SRI LANKA (from): A Paragunga (captain), P A de Silva, S J Jayasinghe, S G Kumara, A P Gunaratna, H P Tillekumar, R S Mahanama, W P U Jayawardene, M Murali, K R Pushpakumara, U U Chandana, M S Akshappa.

Uganda: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and C J Michay (South Africa).



Azharuddin, India's captain, limbers up on the eve of the Calcutta semi-final

Recriminations for defeated Wasim

THINGS could be worse for Michael Atherton. He could, after all, be captain of Pakistan. Since his side's quarter-final defeat by India, Wasim Akram has received death threats, been issued with a writ accusing him of betting against his own team, accused of feigning injury and had his house pelted with stones, eggs and tomatoes.

"I do not deserve this," Wasim said in Karachi yesterday. "I have received death threats and my family is getting abusive phone calls. I have always played my best for Pakistan. I am ready to swear over the holy Koran that I do not get involved in betting and that I am clean." The team had been expected to arrive home in Lahore, but changed plans to avoid protesters.

"I am deeply concerned about the security of my players," Intikhab Alam, the Pakistan manager, said. "Quite a few have received threatening calls. I don't rule out the possibility of a couple breaking down. I have not asked for special security but I think it is needed."

Room at the inn

Pilcom, the organising committee, has ruled out moving the World Cup final from Lahore to Calcutta. *Jang*, the Urdu daily newspaper, reported that \$6 million had been offered to change the venue, but a senior member of Pilcom said the proposal was not taken seriously. He admitted that a switch had been discussed because of a shortage of accommodation. "There was talk, yes, within

Simon Wilde's

WORLD CUP EXTRAS

Pilcom, but, by the time the crunch comes, the accommodation should be available," he said.

Bogged down

Today's semi-final may not be the anticipated run-fest. The India team asked the groundstaff at Eden Gardens, Calcutta, to neutralise Sri Lanka's strokeplayers. "We have watered the wicket a lot in the past few days to remove the bounce," the groundsmen said. "It will be a pitch factory-made for the Indian batsmen and spinners."

Further factors for the visitors to bear in mind. It is better to bat first because the side that bats under lights will be affected by thick smog that envelops the ground at dusk. Also, rats have burrowed under the square and may interrupt play.

Curiosities

Curious Fact No 1: none of the World Cup semi-finalists of 1992 — England, New Zealand, South Africa and Pakistan — has reached that stage this year. Curious Fact No 2: all the quarter-finals were won by teams from group A, which puts England's results in group B into stark perspective.

Enlightening discoveries in the shadow of death

People only go to motor racing to see the crashes. A popular saying, but wide of the mark. That is to say, it misses the bull's eye but it still hits the target, albeit at the outer rim.

Martin Brundle's shocking crash at the Australian grand prix on Sunday, his more shocking act of walking away from it unhurt and his still more shocking determination to get back on the grid for the restart, inevitably put the thought of crashes into the mind.

This crash was something to applaud. A crash without death or injury. Garlanded as it was with a kind of heroism, it became an occasion for celebration. Formula One drivers traditionally adopt a kind of wizard-prang nonchalance in these circumstances. "There was no way I had travelled halfway round the world to sit and watch the race," Brundle said of his dash to get into a spare car. Johnny Herbert, who might have been decapitated had Brundle's inadvertent flight gained a touch less elevation, merely said it was like a scene from the film *Top Gun*.

So the race carried on and the drivers fought their duels at the usual gut-wrenching speed. It all had a greatly enhanced vividness: a crash focuses the mind. No one goes to Formula One in the hope of seeing a death crash, but everyone goes to be where the possibility of death exists.

Charles Blondin attracted massive interest in the 19th century by his repeated crossing of the Niagara Falls on a tightrope. No one went there in the hope that he would fall off. I am sure everyone there wanted him to stay upright; cool and nonchalant while the waters crashed and boiled beneath him — but if everybody wanted Blondin to survive, why didn't they prevent him from stepping onto the wire in the first place? Why

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

didn't they lock him up in the local jail, impound his balancing pole and bind him hand and foot?

Blondin crossed the Falls again and again: on stilts, pushing a wheelbarrow, carrying a man piggy-back and, worst of all, blindfolded. The world watched. No one wanted to see death, but the proximity of death lent an awful vividness to what Blondin did.

It is an odd thing, but there is nothing quite so life-enhancing as the proximity of death. The people who actually do the dangerous sports are united in rejecting the suggestion that they possess a deathwish. No, they say. Quite the reverse.

A rock-climber told me that he is only truly himself "when I am holding on with two fingers of one hand and my feet smearing on nothing". A parachutist told me: "I don't do it because I like the idea of dying. I do it because I enjoy living so much."

Of course — and without making any claims for any personal wizard-prang heroism, I know that my own life has been greatly enhanced by living quite a lot of it with horses and also by going to Africa and walking with lions. "I have been able to experience God's power on earth," That was Ayrton Senna, who

remains the most extraordinary athlete I have ever met. I felt enriched by his every race, will forever find his death a troubling subject. When I think of Senna, I have a rather absurd feeling of guilt, a sense, almost, of responsibility.

It doesn't make sense. I know, but then nor does the proposition that life is best enhanced by the proximity of death. In one way, though, the audience is responsible for every death and injury that takes place in any sport.

Test-match cricket is an infinitely better game than all this one-day stuff and that is at least partly because of the whiff of danger, the proximity — not really of death, please God — but at least of injury. The bouncer brings to cricket a little bit of Formula One's quality of AWFUL VIVIDNESS. Again, to take another non-lethal example, there is a difference between the ball-juggling exhibition before kick-off and the player who performs the same trick when Vinnie Jones is steaming in.

Many sports, and most of the best ones, have some kind of physical risk to them. Risk adds spice for both athletes and audience. Those who watch Formula One look at the high skill, the insane ambition, the sometimes demented duelling and are enthralled by the fact that it all happens at impossible speeds.

At the track, the hospitality areas are full of the wealthy and powerful and the pit-lanes are full of minding bimbos. There is nothing so glamorous as the shadow of death, but none of the people there are anorak with his M.G., the most noisy of helicopter-riding show-offs — nor one of them wants to see death. They have come to stand in the shadow of death, but they have come to see death cheated.

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- Your golf day will be featured in The Times "Fortnightly Golf Day" section.
- Your golf day results will be featured in The Times "Fortnightly Golf Day" section.
- A full set of colour photographs will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as well as the date and name of the golf club, will be printed on the photographs.
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Company name: _____
 Company address: _____
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 Telephone No: _____
 Facsimile: _____
 E-mail: _____
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 Address: _____
 County: _____
 On _____ (date) and will be attended by approximately _____ golfers.
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I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £375.25 inc. VAT, made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.B.C. Please send this completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

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OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: World professional matchplay championship (Country House Hotel, Ballymena).

TODAY'S FUTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup: Sixth round: Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Blackburn v Leeds (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Liverpool v Wimbledon (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Leicester v Ipswich (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Arsenal v Southampton (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Manchester City v Bolton (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Tottenham v Newcastle (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Chelsea v Everton (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Manchester United v Liverpool (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Arsenal v Tottenham (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Chelsea v Manchester City (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Tottenham v Arsenal (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Manchester City v Chelsea (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Arsenal v Tottenham (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Chelsea v Manchester City (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Tottenham v Arsenal (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Manchester City v Chelsea (7.45)

FA Cup: Premier League: Arsenal v Tottenham (7.45)

Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Doncaster v

Doncaster

UNION SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Haslemere v Oxted

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Premier division: Sturminster v Marlow

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Industrial: Rotherham v Barnsley

First leg: Barnsley v Rotherham

MINSTERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brackley v Hatfield

London Colney v Huddersfield

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Basingstoke v Wokingham

Doncaster v Barnsley

FIRST DIVISION: Barnsley v Doncaster

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Stalybridge v Bolton

Avon Insurance Combination: First division: Bristol City v Queens Park Rangers

Northwich City v Luton Town

Oxford United v Ipswich Town

Southampton v Brighton

Wimbledon v Portsmouth

Second division: Bath City v Plymouth Argyle

Bournemouth v Birmingham City

Swansea City v Newport AFC

RUGBY UNION

Club matches: Newcastle (7.0)

Munster v Coventry (7.15)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: World professional matchplay championship (Country House Hotel, Ballymena)

Sentiment bows to business as Danoli falters



ANDREW LONGMORE
At Cheltenham

Only one man in Co Carlow had a smile on his face after Danoli's defeat yesterday and even he knew he was smiling for the wrong reasons. For Terry Clarke, the mile-high pile of betting slips, representing the pounds and pence and good-will of every man, woman and child in the town, meant that sentiment had to be ushered out of the door of Snells, the little betting office in Bagenalstown.

This was business and not even a long friendship with Tom Foley, cemented over the odd wager or two, nor a strong instinct for miracles nor the host of hopeful faces, most of whom had never had a bet in their lives, could stand in the way of the figures. Danoli must not win, for all the colour photograph of the local champion proudly pinned to the wall behind him.

An hour before the Champion Hurdle, Clarke's nerves were already shredded. "It's unreal," Clarke, the manager of Snells, said. "There is no other horse than Danoli in the race as far as these people are concerned. I don't have to ask them who they're backing, I just take the ticket. I've had people I've never seen before, from the bank, the chemists, businessmen and farmers. If Danoli wins, there will be queues all the way down to the bank." On this side of the water, the feeling was much the same. Cheltenham was awash with tales which grew taller with every telling. How Danoli had been blessed by Father Edward Dowling of St Andrew's Church in Bagenalstown and tipped by Father

Breen of Co Kildare in his sermon last Sunday. Alongside Tom Foley, the quietly spoken trainer of Danoli, whose unassuming manner has been as much part of the improbable storyline as the deeds of Danoli, Chris Riggs had a very different kind of investment in the horse. No money, just time, skill and patience.

For 90 minutes last April, Riggs, a vet at the Liverpool University Equine Hospital, had operated on Danoli's off fore-leg, inserting three pins into the shattered joint. Privately, Riggs believed Danoli had no more than a 20 per cent chance of ever racing again, but the overwhelming optimism of Foley, who never once doubted the horse, kept him going. "I suppose I'm the pessimist and Tom is the ultimate optimist. He always said he would be back racing again and he was proved correct," Riggs said.

Yesterday, the most popular Irish horse since Dawn Run was cheered into the parade ring and cheered again into fourth. Foley knew his horse's fate long before Collier Bay had sailed up the hill to victory, had probably feared it once the forecast overnight rain had proved reality. Standing at the back of the stand set aside for the stable lads, he watched through shaking binoculars as Danoli clattered the third last as hard as he had 12 months before. By the time Danoli had run on into fourth, the disappointment had been diluted by the thought that merely returning to Cheltenham was a success. In a succession of inter-



Foley is submerged by waves of journalists after Danoli's defeat in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival yesterday

views, Foley spoke of the soft ground and Danoli's poor jumping. He praised the winner, said with all sincerity that others had been better on the day, that his horse had run in his heart out and beaten 12 home. Like the trainer of a beaten world heavyweight champion, never once did he suggest that

his champion might not be good enough. But when the last microphone had gone, he merged back into the crowd and wistfully watched the exultation of the celebrations in the winner's enclosure. Danoli might yet go to Aintree, where he suffered his injury and, all being well, he will

certainly be back at Cheltenham as a chaser next spring. Back in Bagenalstown, Snells had long since been left to his regulars and the sighs of relief which blew a shower of torn betting slips down the main street. "It's a real relief. I've never known such pressure," Clarke said. "It was a

great atmosphere in here before the start but you could see the faces drop a quarter of a mile out. People stayed on just hoping for a miracle, but as soon as the race was over, the place was empty. They didn't care about the ground or the course or the form, they just wanted that horse to win. I feel

sorry for Tom, but I'm sure he would understand. It's purely business." About £3,000 worth of business, to be precise, ten times above the usual takings for one race. Battle will resume today, of course. Another Carlow certainly is in the wind. With or without in the last.

Ventana Canyon lifts Irish spirits

By OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish came to Cheltenham expecting to cheer home Danoli in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle but had to be content with Ventana Canyon's success in the Guinness Arkle Trophy Chase, their only winner on the opening day of the Festival.

Ventana Canyon, at 7-1, was the second choice to Manhattan Castle among the Irish challenge, but Manhattan Castle's supporters swiftly knew their fate when he swerved at the start and threw the jockey, Francis Woods. "He lost his balance and his hind legs went," Woods said. Add the tragic accident to Draborgie and Edward O'Grady, the trainer of Ventana Canyon, was blessing his luck. "The cards fell our way," O'Grady said. The Co Tipperary trainer has not accumulated 14 Festival winners by luck alone, though, and he had set about maximising his horse's chance early yesterday.

"We schooled him over one fence and it turned out to be a good decision," O'Grady added after Richard Dunwoody had brought the gelding home clear of Arctic Kinsman. "It helped him to get his eye in."

Tom Foley had feared for Danoli's chance in the Champion Hurdle on Monday night when rain turned the ground good to soft. "It's very testing and Danoli just doesn't like that," he said. The ground was also blamed by Charlie Swan for Hotel Minella's failure. "It made all the difference, he was never happy on it," Swan said.

Dance Beat was best of the Irish in sixth in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but the well-backed Beakstown fell at the first. There was no better luck in the Ritz Club Handicap Chase as Flashing Steel was unhappy on soft ground.

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Another Cheltenham. Another Queen Mother. Another crown for the Duke.
(Viking Flagship: 6/4)

THE QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE
2m, Cheltenham, 2.50pm. Live on CH4.
6/4 Viking Flagship 16/1 Coulton
7/4 Sound Man 16/1 Travado
4/1 Strong Platinum 50/1 Dancing Paddy
10/1 Klairon Davis
EW ONE-QUARTER the odds a place 1,2,3, or 4
The Sun Alliance Chase
3m 11f, Cheltenham, 4.05pm. Live on CH4.
6/4 Mr Mulligan 14/1 River Lissie
9/2 Johnny Selaside 20/1 Punters Overhead
6/1 Hill Of Tislow 40/1 Do Rightly
7/1 Major Rumpus 50/1 Linden's Lotto
10/1 Betty's Boy 66/1 Dark Honey
10/1 Mathilda Lad 66/1 Tothwoods
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HUNTINGDON
THUNDERER
2.05 Fryup Satellite, 2.40 Domino Ring, 3.15 Waterford Castle, 3.50 River Leven, 4.25 Dering Valley, 5.00 Fools Erand, 5.35 Le Baron.
GOING: GOOD SIS

2.05 KEYSTONE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,000; 2m 5f 110yds) (17 runners)
1 0863 B. BARNARD 9 (5) M. J. Jones 5-12-0 Mr A. W. H. (7) 91
2 0481 EXETER 9 (5) M. J. Jones 5-12-0 Mr A. W. H. (7) 91
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Electricity cut provides power for jockey's success in Champion Hurdle

Bradley wakes up to Festival glory

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A FORTUITOUS power cut and an unexpected eleventh-hour call-up yesterday enabled Graham Bradley to complete a fairytale success on Collier Bay in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham.

As the 9-1 shot powered up the famous hill at the home of jump racing, beating Alderbrook, the defending champion and odds-on favourite, by 2½ lengths, few in the 39,175 crowd can have realised how big a role fate had played in the outcome.

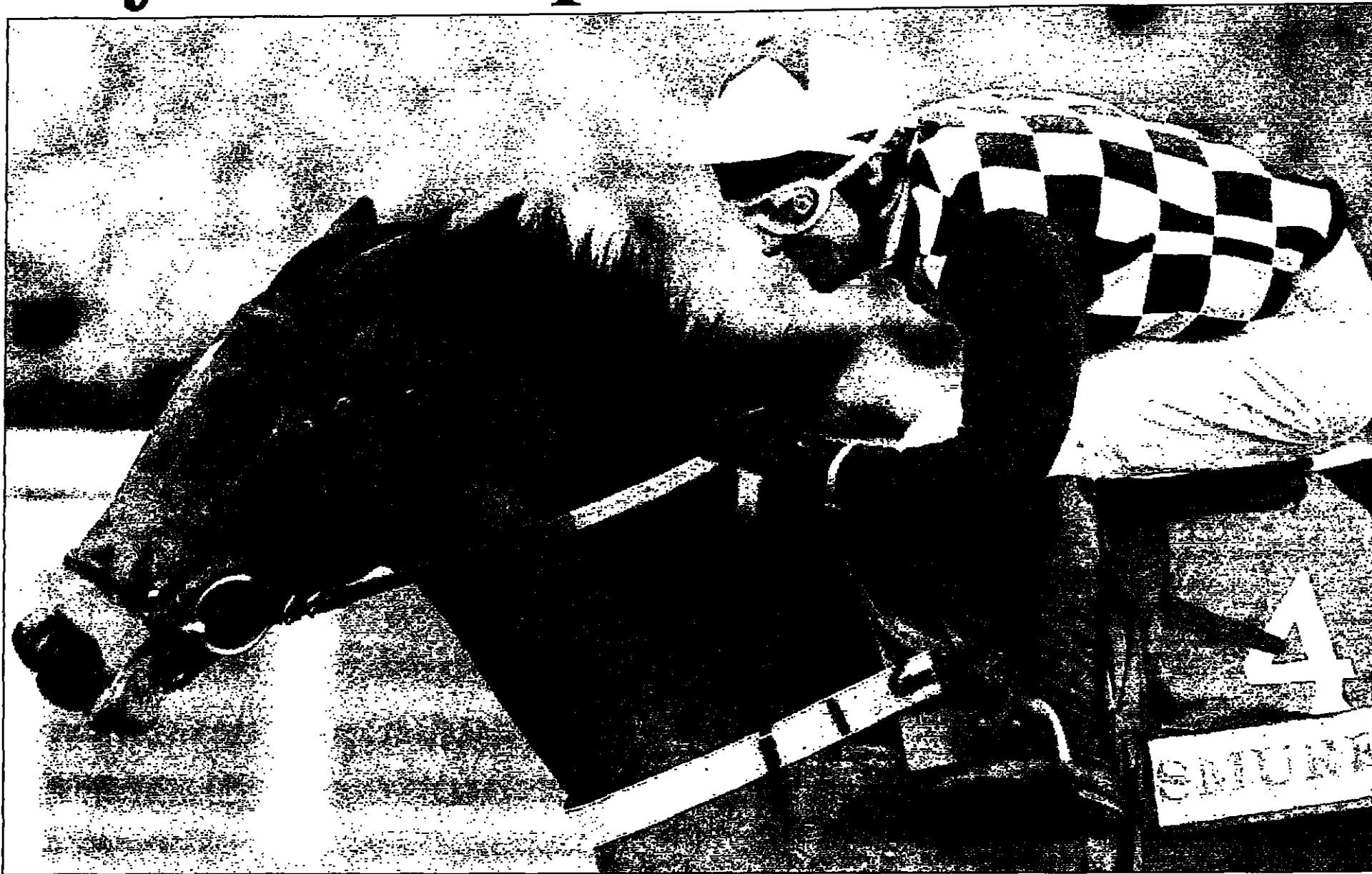
Bradley, 35, had been due to school Alderbrook at Lambourn last month and, in all probability, would have gone on to ride the hot favourite for yesterday's race. However, a power cut that turned off the jockey's electric alarm clock meant he overslept, missed the work-out — and was replaced by Richard Dunwoody. Jamie

Perfect timing 1
Diary 13
Danoli disappoints 44
Tragedy for Pipe 45

Osborne, who rode Collier Bay to victory in the Irish Champion Hurdle, decided on Sunday night to ride Mysliv in yesterday's race and Bradley was only invited to take over on the Jim Old-trained six-year-old 24 hours before the £175,000 race.

The strange circumstances underpinning this most popular outcome to the hurdlers' crown do not end there. To complete the remarkable story, Old and Wally Sturt, trainer and owner of Collier Bay, were the underbidders when Alderbrook went through the sales ring as a youngster and Kim Bailey, the trainer of Alderbrook, was just pipped by Old and Sturt when they paid 45,000 guineas for Collier Bay three years ago.

Bradley, dubbed the Alarm Clock Champion, said: "Collier Bay felt great — he travelled and jumped well — it is unbelievable. Jim Old promised me that Collier Bay



Bradley, who was offered the ride on Collier Bay 24 hours earlier, powers the horse to victory in yesterday's Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham. Photograph: Ian Stewart

would be 10lbs better than he was in Ireland. When I went past Jamie going to the second last, there were a few expletives from Jamie, who realised that he had chosen the wrong one. I popped the last and went strongly up the hill."

Old, who, in appearance, resembles a weather-beaten trawlerman, has not always enjoyed the best of fortune in a training career stretching back to 1972. The dreaded virus, which can lay low the

toughest and most gifted of equine athletes, has followed him with the loyalty of an obedient puppy as he has tried his luck at four different yards.

However, as this most likeable man arrived at Prestbury Park yesterday, he knew, for once, the Gods were on his side. A third of an inch of overnight rain and flurries of snow that covered nearby Cleeve Hill had changed the official going from good to soft — the kind of ground that converts his hurdler from a bit-part player to a champion.

With Mysliv adopting her customary front-running role, Bradley always had Collier Bay travelling sweetly in her slipstream while Danoli, the hope of Ireland, galloped not far away. Jumping to the front

two flights from home, he poached a healthy-looking lead approaching the final flight.

With Danoli finding little to offer under such pressure, Alderbrook came from some way off the pace but never looked like catching the win-

ner. For Old and Sturt, the most loyal owner a trainer could wish for, the victory completed a dream they had nurtured for more than a decade. Ever since Old sent out Cima in Sturt's blue and

white checked silks to finish second to the great Dawn Run in the 1984 Champion Hurdle, they have set their sights on going one better.

"This has always been the race I have wanted to win, above all others. With this race, I feel you can buy a horse that can win it. The Gold Cup is a dream factory and the Grand National is a lottery," Old said.

Sturt, a successful businessman and stalwart of jump racing, first sent horses to Old in the late 1970s and has remained with him through thick and thin. "Patience pre-

vail," he said. Pridwell finished third, a length clear of Danoli, whose trainer, Tom Foley, was understandably disappointed. "I wish we were there in first

place. We got beat on the day and that's it. We'd have preferred yesterday's ground. He possibly didn't jump as well as another year, but didn't like the ground," he said, before thanking all the horse's followers for their support.

Bailey, whose Alderbrook was backed to take out £100,000 in big bets alone, said: "The horse that beat us ran a bloody good race. We got hampered a couple of times and ran a very good race. It's slightly annoying as we were the underbidders for the winner in the sale ring at Newmarket."

Stop The Waller's victory gave jockey Ken Whelan a winner on his first Festival ride, a feat equaled in the closing Hamlet Cigars Gold Card Handicap Hurdle (Fi-

nal) by Richard McGrath on board Great Easeby.

Great Easeby's trainer, Will Storey, had aimed the gelding at the race for a year and was a relieved man when the 7-1 shot withstood the strong late finish of Gillan Cove by a fast-reducing neck.

To add to Storey's concern, the stewards called an inquiry after the winner drifted towards Pharaneer, who eventually finished third. Storey, after learning his charge had kept the race, said: "I was as confident about his chances as I could be. His key is stamina although I wouldn't have wanted it much softer."

□ The opening-day crowd of 39,175 was the second highest first-day figure for the Festival, behind that for Tuesday last year, 42,875.

Scot loses
pounds
to bring
home the
baconFROM MEL WEBB
IN DUBAI

COLIN Montgomerie never was the slimmest of men; where Greg Norman was a greyhound and Nick Faldo a well-honed retriever, Montgomerie was one of the bulldogs of world golf.

Yet that has all changed and Montgomerie will make his delayed start to the PGA European Tour season in the Dubai Desert Classic here tomorrow putting less strain on the bathroom scales.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, the burly Scot is still a heavy-weight. There remains a good deal of flesh on his ample frame — there is just a little less of it.

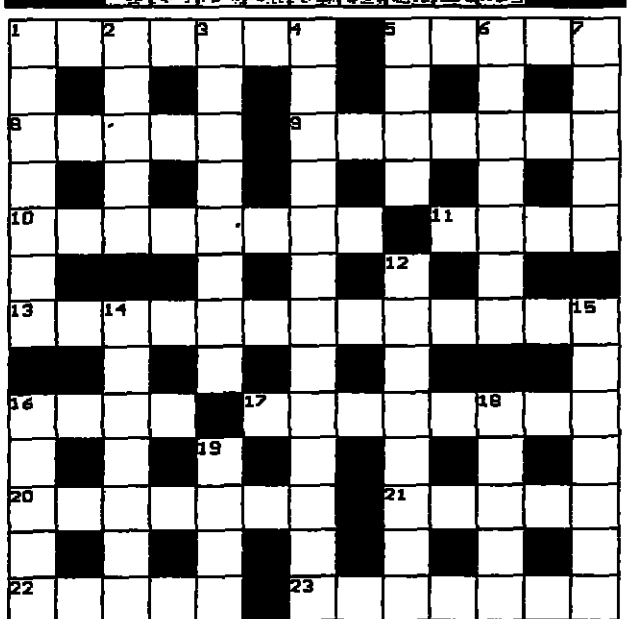
About two stones less. Montgomerie would never admit his weight, beyond conceding that at his heaviest, he was more than 16st. He is still not svelte and, indeed, has no intention of becoming so. Neither is he yielding to the no doubt well-meaning advice of some of his peers, notably David Leadbetter, coach to Faldo.

Montgomerie, Leadbetter suggested, would never win one of golf's major championships while he carried around all that excess baggage.

"I've not done it because of what he said," Montgomerie said with more than a hint of defiance. "My golf was not suffering so I didn't feel I had to lose weight. I've done it for me."

Montgomerie has spent the winter concentrating more on his body than his swing. The Scot, it seems, is delighted with his new silhouette. "I'm enjoying it already, especially with the results I've had."

The results in the gym, he meant — because he has hardly picked up a club. It will be interesting to see if he is playing well. If he is not, whether his uncertain temper has also been shed. Perhaps it has — and perhaps pigs can levitate.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 728

ACROSS

- 1 A taking away (7)
- 5 French currency (5)
- 8 Object (whose name one has forgotten) (5)
- 9 Bother, nuisance (7)
- 10 German motorway (8)
- 11 Principal: number of cattle (4)
- 13 With no axe to grind (13)
- 16 Rendered pig fat (4)
- 17 Forest-killing pollution (4,4)
- 20 Capital of Kenya (7)
- 21 Wireless (5)
- 22 US saloon: portable chair (5)
- 23 Unhinge (mind) (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 727

- ACROSS: 1 Busybody 5 Scud 8 Grey area 9 Gear 11 Demon 12 Cropper 13 Delphi 15 Entrée 18 Faculty 19 Enact 21 Ours 22 Harangue 23 Anew 24 Folklore

- DOWN: 1 Baghdad 2 Steam 3 Brainchild 4 Drench 6 Creeper 7 Dither 10 Mountebank 14 Lucerne 16 Extreme 17 Dynamo 18 Flora 20 Aggro

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 728

- ACROSS: 1 Suck 3 Taj Mahal 8 Aged 9 Tranquil 11 Pickpocket 14 Novice 15 Verona 17 Black Death 20 Open-plan 21 Gill 22 Gingerly 23 Jeer

- DOWN: 1 Sharp end 2 Coercive 4 Africa 5 Montevideo 6 Hour 7 Lull 10 Apocalypse 12 Bona fide 13 Bachelor 16 Scrawl 18 Kong 19 Dean

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic or international network is W M Pope, Curry River, Langport, Somerset.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic network is C Abley, West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex. All flights subject to availability.

Harford ready to delve
into futures market

BY DAVID MADDOCK AND RUSSELL KEMSPON

BLACKBURN Rovers have watched from the shadows this season as the football transfer boom that they initiated has spiralled out of control. After buying their way to the FA Cup Premier League title, Rovers have been reluctant to continue the trend and have paid the heavy price of mid-table obscurity while their big-spending rivals, Liverpool and Newcastle United, have assumed their mantle in the perennial challenge to Manchester United.

It seems, however, that the spend, spend, spend mentality is about to return to Ewood Park with Ray Harford, the manager, signalling his intent yesterday to resume purchasing policies on a grand scale.

"We now have scope for two or three large signings. I believe that there are a few more signings to come before I finish the job here," Harford said. "I am trying to look for players for the future, but ones that are good enough to come into the side now — and they are the ones who cost money."

Harford has been watching Trevor Sinclair, of Queens Park Rangers, Steve Stone, the Nottingham Forest midfielder player, and Lee Bowyer, the Charlton Athletic youngster, who is valued at £4 million. He has also been scouring the transfer market abroad, but anticipates little success in the immediate future, preferring a summer spree to create a basis for a title challenge next season.

"As much as I would like to make some big signings before the transfer deadline, I don't think that will happen. I am looking slightly more long-term," he said. Harford out-

lined his plan for this season as one of consolidation, bringing in players of youthful promise who will add depth to his sparse squad and put pressure in the long term on established first-team players. He is planning to give some of the new breed a run-out against Leeds United tonight.

Matt Holmes, Niklas Gudmundsson and Graham Fenton all coming into the reckoning with Tim Sherwood, the captain, suspended.

Elsewhere, Bruce Rioch's reshaping of Arsenal inadvertently gathered pace yesterday with a queue apparently forming to leave Highbury. After Ian Wright's transfer request, Paul Dickov has also asked for a move and John Jensen has rejoined Brøndby, his former club, in Denmark. As yet, Rioch's in-tray is empty.

Chelsea have expressed renewed interest in Wright, having already been rebuffed once, but will wait until Arsenal decide what to do. "I made an inquiry for Ian and,



Sinclair: target

at the time, was answered with a flat 'no'." Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, said. "Things have moved on from then and we will have to see how the Arsenal board reacts. We will respect their decision."

Arsenal will discuss Wright's future at their next board meeting. "There is no date fixed but Ian's request will be dealt with in due course," Ken Friar, the managing director, said. "There is a lot to consider, with Bruce Rioch's recommendations obviously a key factor."

Rioch's immediate intentions should become clear when he selects his squad for the Premiership match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on Saturday. Wright is now free of the injury and suspension that have kept him out of the past three games.

Jensen, 30, was bought by George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, for £1.57 million in July 1992, after scoring one of the Denmark goals in their 2-0 win over Germany in the European championship final in Gothenburg. The move ultimately led to Graham's downfall last year, when he was found guilty by the Football Association of transfer irregularities.

Under Rioch, Jensen has found his first-team chances more limited.

Dickov, 23, the Scotland Under-21 striker, has proved a capable deputy for Wright when needed. However, after four seasons as a professional and loan spells at Luton Town and Brighton, he has decided that there is little future in persisting at Highbury.

Italy's top
players
prepare
to strike

ITALIAN football followers are growing ever more anxious as the weekend approaches. Their beloved Serie A is threatened by an unprecedented strike, called by some of the wealthiest and most famous players in the world.

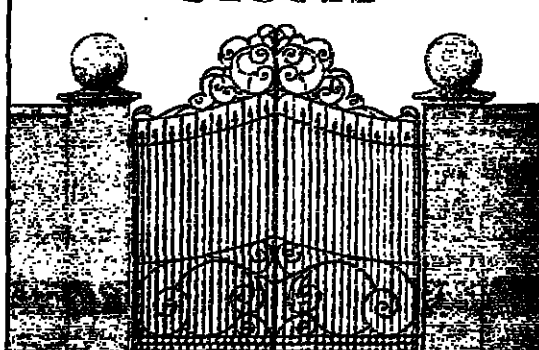
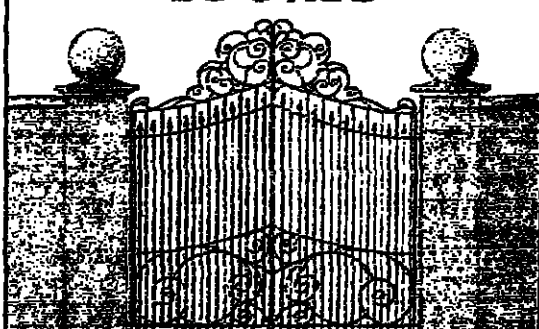
"This was all we needed in Italy — a millionaires' strike," *Corriere dello Sport* said on Tuesday in a commentary headlined: "The war of the rich against the people." If the action does go ahead — and previous strikes have been called off at the last moment — it would hit Serie A matches only. Serie B and Serie C face strikes on future weekends.

The Italian football federation has called an emergency meeting for tomorrow with Sergio Campana, the head of the players' union, and the former coach to the national side, Azzeglio Vicini who leads the coaches' association.

The players' main demand is for the federation to meet a shortfall in a "guarantee fund" that acts as a safety net for players when clubs fail. "We're not doing it for ourselves but for the mass of players without guarantees," Gianluca Vialli, the Juventus captain and former Italian international, said.

The players also want the abolition of transfer fees at the end of the season, in line with the European Court's recent "Bosman ruling". League and federation authorities want a gradual phasing out.

One newspaper quoted Vialli as saying the strike was inevitable. "There is no time left to mediate because too much was lost before," Vialli said.

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